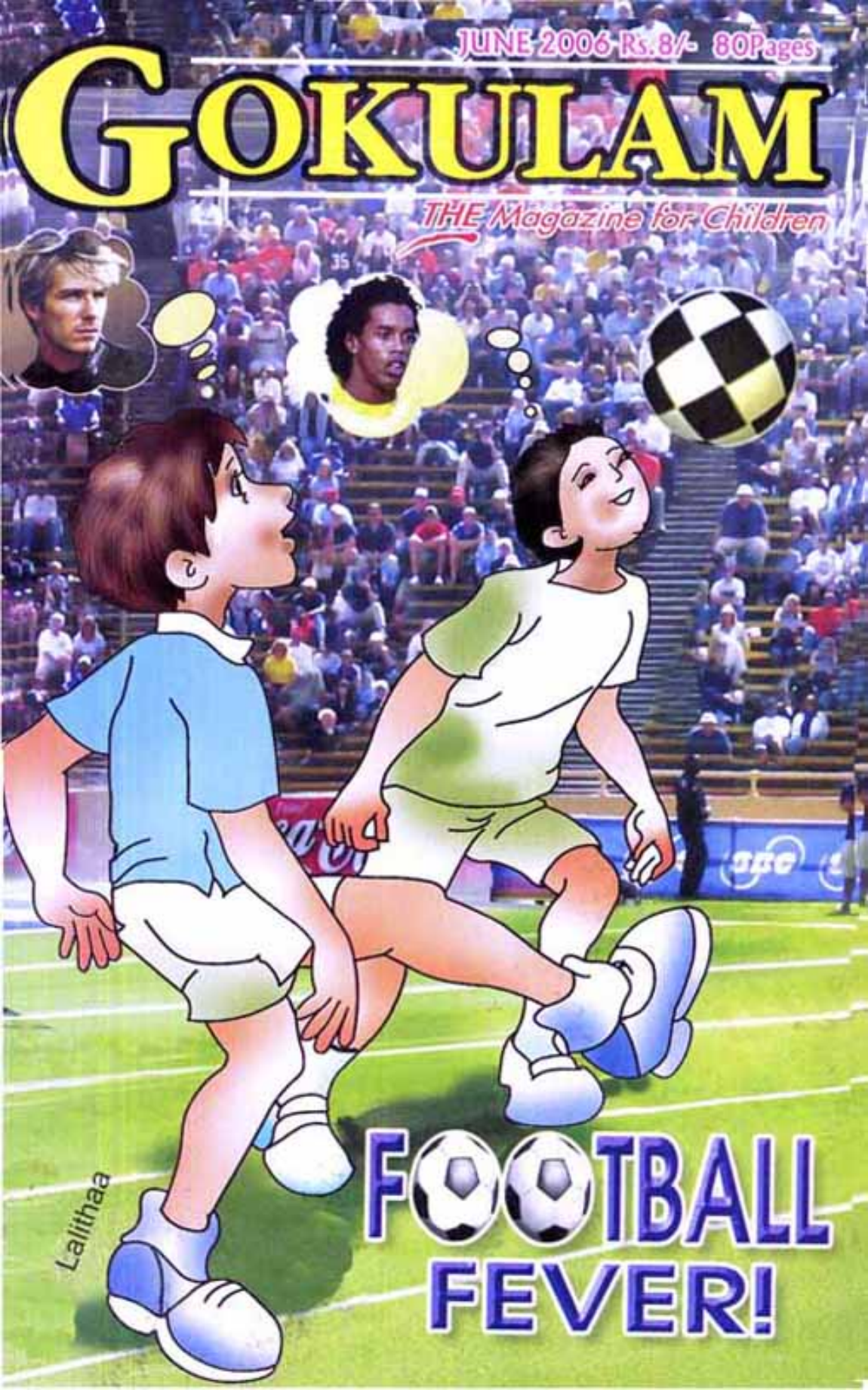
JUNE 2006 Rs. 8/- 80Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



FOOTBALL FEVER!

Hungry babies...
tired parents!

JUNE 2006
Vol. XVIII, No.12

THE MONGOOSE SAGA 28

The Dare-Devil Pilots! 48

NETBITS

8

Find the Mistakes 40-41

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

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S. Stephen
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S. Karthikeyan

telephones :
2225 1522,
2225 0623,
2225 1324

fax :
044 - 2225 1021

e-mails :

editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

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THE Magazine for Children

Dear Reader,

I am sure you have read in the newspapers about Kaavya. Her book was publicised with a lot of fanfare but turned out to be a plagiarised work and unable to face the accusations and legal actions, the publishers had to withdraw all the copies

Never Forget KAAVYA!

from book stores all over the world. 'Plagiarised' is a dignified way of saying that the novel was copied.

Several portions of Kaavya's book were lifted from other novels. Kaavya has brought upon herself disgrace besides creating a bad name for our country.

Dishonesty may appear to bring quick fame and money. But truth will ultimately triumph and sooner or later the dishonest person ends up in shame and ignominy. Whenever you are tempted to copy during an exam or test, remember Kaavya and desist from it. Even day to day lessons and homework should not be copied from the note book of a friend. You will have to learn to write on your own - especially compositions. You can seek help, get your essay corrected for errors of syntax and grammar But the final rewritten product should be your own. Don't forget the age old sayings "practise makes perfect" and "honesty is the best policy". There is no alternative to hardwork and no shortcuts in life.

- Editor

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Story

An Autograph

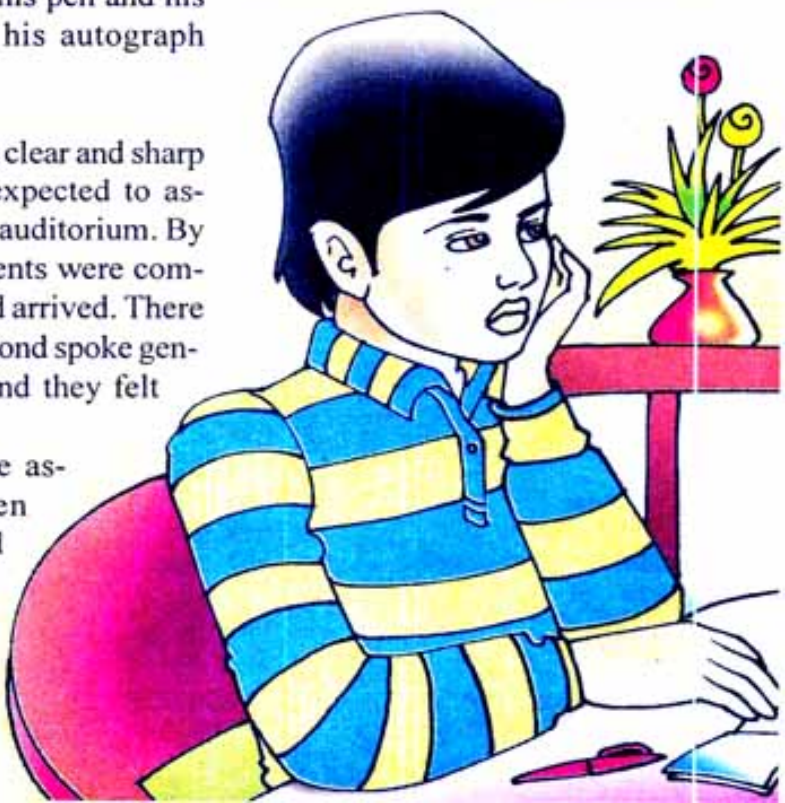
"Hurray! Ruskin Bond is going to visit our school" shouted Shyam at top of his voice. Shyam was a fan of Ruskin Bond. He was the first one to check out for new books of Bond in the book stall. He loved them a lot and what more, he wanted to become a great writer like Ruskin Bond. His joy knew no bounds when he learnt that Bond was going to visit his school the next day.

He was the first one to reach school. He checked his pen and his prized posession - his autograph book.

The speaker rang clear and sharp that students were expected to assemble at the school auditorium. By the time all the students were comfortably seated, Bond arrived. There was great cheering. Bond spoke gently to the students and they felt inspired.

At the end of the assembly the children crowded around Bond. Shyam couldn't break into the crowd. He tried hard to push himself through the crowd to reach Bond. But, alas! by the time he reached there, Bond was leaving and all the children dispersed. A few lucky ones were displaying proudly Bond's autograph!

Shyam reached home dull and tired and REALLY upset. His mother expected him to jump with joy and show Bond's autograph to her. But without uttering a word he ate his evening snacks and retired



for homework.

Soon his father arrived and his mother told him about Shyam's strange behaviour. Both parents went to his room and asked to see Bond's autograph.

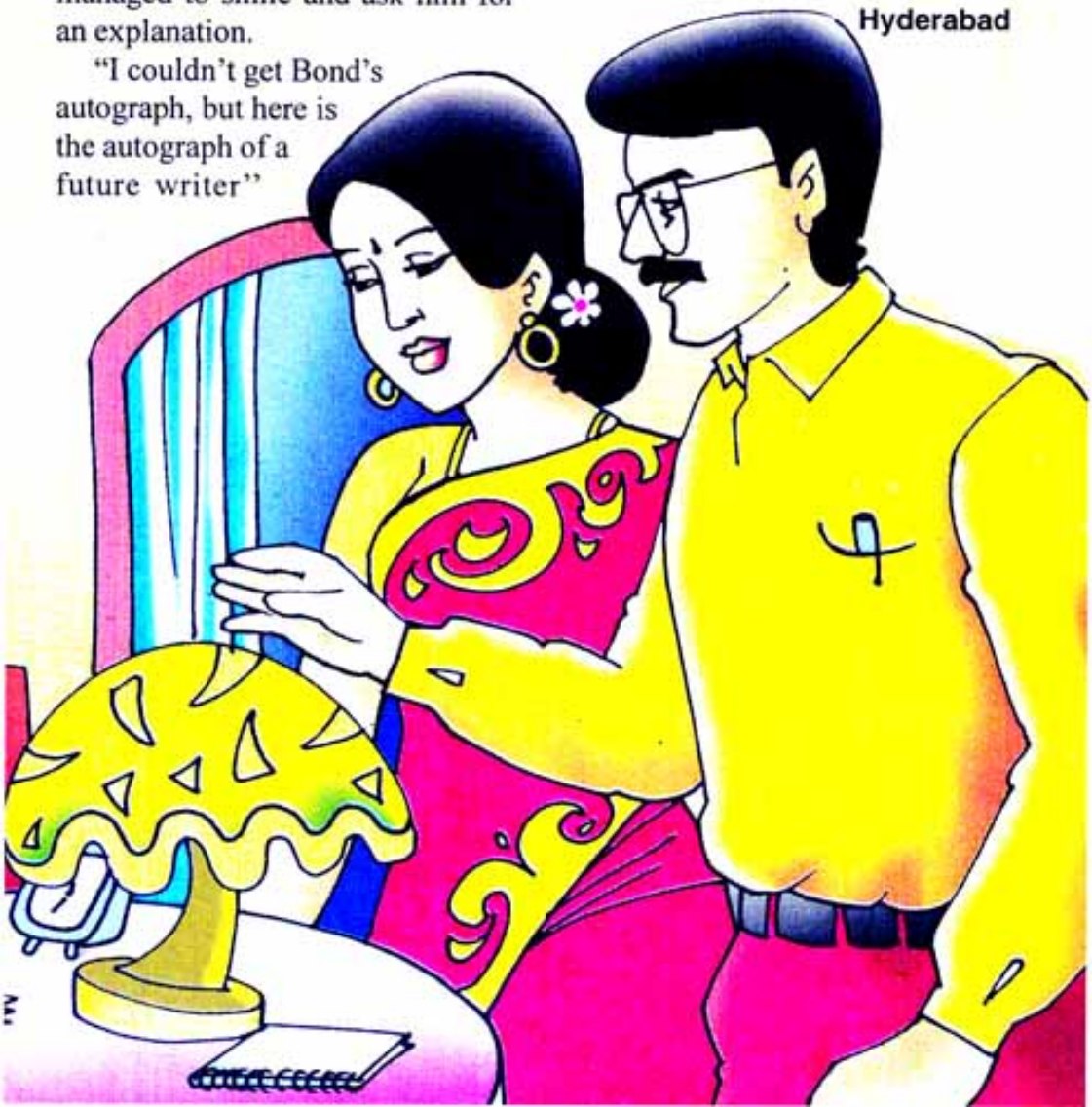
Shyam produced his autograph book and opened a page which was signed by Shyam himself!

His parents were puzzled but managed to smile and ask him for an explanation.

"I couldn't get Bond's autograph, but here is the autograph of a future writer" quipped Shyam! "When I am famous I'll make sure to sign autographs for every kid who asks me" he said. After all he had experienced the disappointment.

"But you must work very hard to be able to write like Ruskin Bond" his father said. "We will help you" said his mother, giving Shyam a big hug.

- A. Anurag Reddy, Std IX,
Nagarajuna High School,
Hyderabad



Lovable Teachers

My favourite teacher is Sarat Chandran sir. He taught us English in sixth standard. He has an impressive way of teaching. He conducts a quiz in which he encourages the whole class to participate. He is very particular about the pronunciation.

He has done his utmost to improve our letter writing and paragraph writing skills. He is ready to help the students at any time. He takes care of each and every student. Under his guidance all in our class were able to improve their English. He makes every lesson interesting. I got 99% in English. I couldn't have done it without his help. I thank him very much on behalf of my classmates. He is also a good poet. He is the best teacher in the whole world.

- P. Revathi, Std VII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Trivandrum.

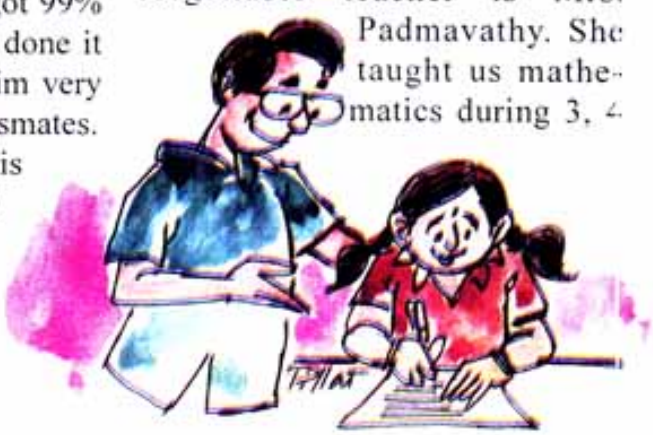
You can't believe your ears ...? My most lovable master is Mr. Pathy (none other than my most beloved father). It is definitely a pleasure to write about him. He teachers me Maths, English and Science. He has been working in the field of Chemistry and knows it quite well. He has excelled in English and Maths too. I have been able to score centum in Maths only because of him. He gives me sums on his own and not from our text book. He encourages me to participate in quiz and essay writing competitions. He is the one who encouraged me to write to "Gokulam".

Actually, he should have become a teacher by profession but is now an officer!

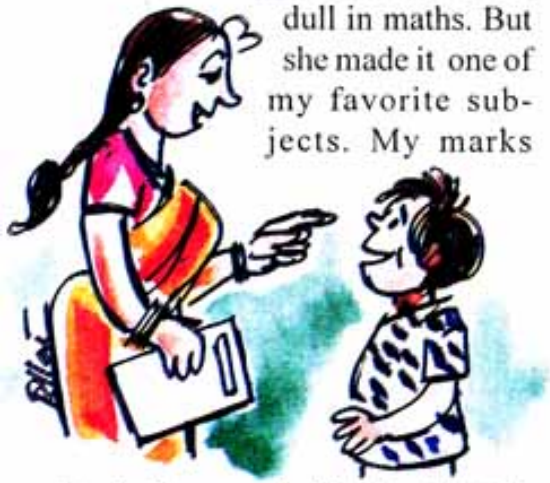
- G.P. Mahitha, VIth Std.,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai-83

A Guiding

My favourite and my most unforgettable teacher is Mrs. Padmavathy. She taught us mathematics during 3, 4



and 5th stds. Maths is a difficult subject. But she taught in a very playful manner. I used to be dull in maths. But she made it one of my favorite subjects. My marks



slowly increased. She is strict. Its true that my friends and I were afraid

Light to All!

of her. But she thought of us as her own kids and showered us with care and love.

She also encouraged us to submit our assignments neatly and well decorated. This induced us to finish our assignments and also developed our creativity.

- Nagesh. S.

Sujatha Ma'am was our English Teacher in Std III. She improved my handwriting. She was very patient while clearing our doubts. Her unique way of teaching captured our hearts and made us listen to the lesson with great interest. As I was poor in grammar she helped me improve.

- Atharva Uday Tanksale,
Std III, Future Kids School,
Rajmundry, (A.P.)

Science was a tough subject for me. I studied the subject without understanding it. My mother noticed it and decided to send me for science tuitions to a teacher, 'Uma Hariharan'... and then did I start understanding science!

In an hour of tuition class she teaches for 40 minutes in a serious manner and in the remaining 20 minutes we debate on any science topic. She demonstrates all the experiments practically. She teaches in a very simple manner.

She is a teacher who follows the principle of work while you

work and play while you play. Even when I am in a bad mood, I don't miss my science tuitions because she makes me cheerful.

- Kaushalya Narendran, Std VIII,
Vasant Vihar High School,
Mumbai

Here are some more rumours about Book 7 which might interest you.

Weasley Wheezes: I believe that the store will survive, as will both the twins. I think their shield charms will get the attention of the Death Eaters and there will be some sort of show down with the twins coming out on top in the end. Weasley's Wizarding Wheezes will show the twins' inventive genius. The twins have already shown glimpses of their brilliance. They will eventually begin to invent (perhaps accidentally at first) some useful items beyond jokes. They will become a great resource for stealth items for the Order of the Phoenix.

Did everyone forget about Viktor Krum?JKR passingly mentioned him in the 5th book, but he was too important a character in the 4th book to just be written off like that. He could become the next 'informant' in Voldemort's circle of Death Eaters. Think about it. He went to a Dark Wizarding School and his headmaster, the one he was so close to, was a death eater. (On another note, whatever happened to him?) No one has really kept in touch with him, save Hermione, who would normally be the only one who could see him for what he really is, but, since she has a 'thing' for him, her judgment may be clouded. Voldemort might find this out and use Krum through Hermione to get to Harry. He might be brought back, along with Fleur, in the 7th book, as well as a whole slew of characters that have been mentioned in previous books, but then dropped.

R.A.B?

Regulus Black (R.A.B) took the Horcrux from the cave - it is mentioned in Book 5 as a 'heavy locket that none of the 'cleaners' at 12 Grimmauld Place were able to open. It was put into a rubbish bag. So where is it now? Also, a curious question - what does the Draught of Living Death do?

At the end of Book 6 when Harry looked at the locket and read the initials, they were the same initials as Regulus Black.

What is his middle name? Who could RAB be? Doesn't it mean RAB knows about Voldemort's horcruxes too?

(source: Internet)

- Aathreya S. Bhat
Std IX, KV INS Hamla, Malad(W), Mumbai

FROM JK'S MOUTH!

During an interview with J.K., the interviewers (Mugglenet's Emerson Spartz and Leaky Cauldron's Melissa Aneli) had asked about the shape of Ron's patronus. Jo had replied that it was a small dog like a Jack Russell. Jo thought it was a very 'sentimental' choice as she has a Jack Russell who she considers to be 'insane'. She also stated that Ron's eyes were blue.

When asked whether R.A.B was Regulus Black, she had slyly remarked 'Fine guess.' Jo also gave information on why she killed Sirius. Jo says, 'Harry had always seen a godfather in Sirius. He had wanted someone more parent-like and experienced to talk to and confide his secrets. But Sirius gave him more than he had bargained. Sirius had looked at Harry as a friend and companion for petty mischiefs, not as godson. So I had to finish him off."

Then the question arose - "Did Alice Longbottom pass on secret messages to her son Neville while giving him the chocolate wrappers?"

Jo had said a big no. She put up this situation in order to create an emotional note and in order to make the world aware of a mother's love for her child even though she is in a mentally disordered shape.

Jo had said that she would not be concentrating much on writing till April is over as she wishes to care for her third child, Mackenzie, in the same way she had cared for David, her son.

- Aishwarya Mohapatra, Age 13, Bhubaneshwar

GOKULAM GREETS SACHIN!

Fifteenth May 2006 was an unforgettable day in my life. Yes, I saw my dream hero (not only mine, but of millions of Indians) Sachin Tendulkar!

There was a press meet organised by G.M. Pens, manufacturers of Reynolds Pens, at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai. I was there, representing our Gokulam to greet him, on his appointment as Brand Ambassador of Reynolds.

Sachin entered the hall amidst heavy applause at 7.30 p.m sharp. Everyone in the hall admired his punctuality. The hall which was filled with cameras started clicking and whirring. After he signed the agreement with G.M.Pens, Sachin was drenched by a shower of questions fired by the reporters. He answered with a smiling face.

When Sachin was about to leave the hall, I ran up to him

- Rahul

sweet memories for years to come.

I thank Gokulam for giving me this golden opportunity.

- R. Rahul, Std VIII,
Jawhar Vidyalaya Sr. Sec. School, Chennai

and called 'Sir'. The hand which drove the balls towards the boundary reached out and hugged me. I gave him the bouquet. He thanked me for the bouquet and asked me what my name was. He carried my bouquet upto his room.

Though my meeting with Sachin lasted only for few minutes, I will cherish the

Strong Medicine!

Story : Kutty Prasanna Pictures: Pillai

Go out to the street and let fly the cotton filling from a pillow.
As you say...

Vasu came back after a while.
Sir, I did as you said...
OK. Now get back all the cotton and re-stuff the pillow.

How can I do that? It has all blown away.
So also the words you spoke ill of me... They can t be with-drawn.
Vasu realised his faults.

Dear Grandma,

My father keeps comparing me to my cousins and also insists that such comparison is only for my betterment. I re-

"My Grandma Irritates Me!"

sent it, what should I do?

- M. Vishnu, New Delhi

Dear Vishnu,

There is nothing wrong in comparing ourselves to another person but it should be done in a positive manner. For instance you can compare yourself even to the father of the nation. Ask yourself, 'am I as honest as he was? Do I love my country? Am I doing something for society? Do I realise the dignity of labour? and so on... But don't ask yourself impossible questions, like, 'Can I observe a 21 day fast' or 'when do I commence my Dandi March'! Similarly if your cousins have some good qualities, you can compare yourself to them and try to follow them. It will help you to improve yourself. But don't compare yourself with a negative attitude and become jealous. It will lead you nowhere. For example your cousin may be rich or extraordinarily brilliant. Feel happy for him but don't feel sorry for yourself. You will be able to shine in your own way. This reply is for your dad too.

I find my paternal grandmother's comments very irritating. She speaks ill of my friends and there is a fight almost everyday. Please help.

- Kishore, Ahmedabad

Dear Kishore,

Do you know why old people like me mumble and grumble? Because they have nothing better to do! They feel neglected and they have a nagging fear that they may fall sick and become a burden to others because of their old age! You can help your grandma to get rid of these complexes by making her feel wanted and loved. If you have a simple

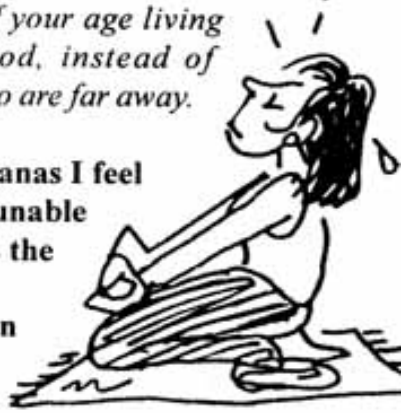
board game like 'snakes and ladders' ask her to play with you for say 15 minutes. Another day, spare a few minutes to listen to her narrate an "once upon a time" story. Ask her for an old time recipe and when your mom prepares it, tell her it tastes wonderful. Ask her if she can help stitch a button for your shirt and so on. Just a few minutes to please her every day and she's totally on your side. You'll be a priceless gem in her eyes and she'll start praising your friends too!

My sister never plays with me. All my friends are far away, I hate to play by myself, I'm so lonely. 'Boredom' is my middle name. How do I overcome this problem?

- D. Samsundar, Chennai

Dear Sam,

I really feel sorry for you. The best and easiest way out is to make your sister play with you. Find out why she refuses to play with you. Perhaps you want her to play as per your decisions and dictates. Instead try going along with her and play as per her wish. If this change in attitude also does not help, you will have to develop friendship with boys of your age living in your neighbourhood, instead of yearning for friends who are far away.

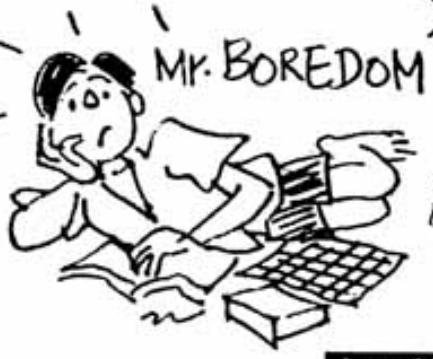


While doing yogasanas I feel very restless and I am unable to concentrate. What's the reason?

- Subha Narayanan Dombivli (E)

Dear Subha

This is not an unusual situation, especially for beginners. May be you have a lot of homework yet unfinished or you feel it's getting late for school. Some may even think that they are wasting their time! Find out what is agitating your mind. Remember that meditation and yogasanas are practised only to relax the mind and tone up the body and not to create more tensions. Finish your homework the previous day itself. Allot five minutes more than what is necessary for yogasanas. Learn some slokas with their meaning if nothing else, chant "Ram, Ram" silently. Visualise Him and think of His wonderful qualities. In a few days you will overcome your tension, experience the bliss of dhyana and benefit by it.



Love,
Grandmaworm

GOKULAM

July 2006

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

NEW **SERIAL STORY**

NEW **DETECTIVE DUMPY**

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by Rani Iyer

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Also your favourite Viewpoint, Experience, Art Gallery, Jokes, Poems, Grandmaworm, Hello Doctor, Budding Chef, Creative Corner, Puzzles, Netbits, and the works.

RATS

- Aazhi

Rats belong to the Muridae species of animals. One third of the worlds mammals are rats!

The African Giant Rat is the biggest among rats. Next comes the black rat or bandicoot.

Stick rat

Sand rat

Wood rat

Black rat

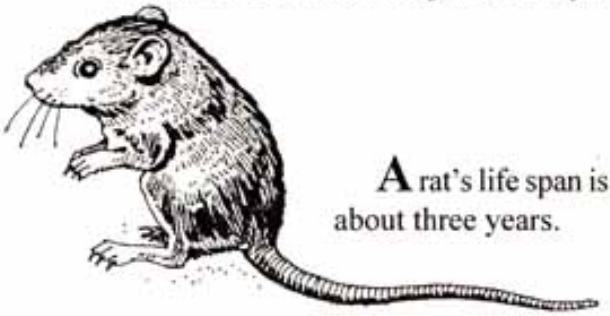
Brown rat

White rat

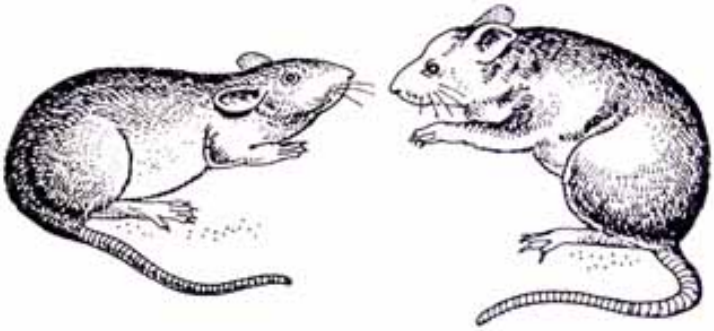
Rats have inhabited the earth several lakhs of years before mankind.

The harvest mouse is the smallest mammal. It measures just eight centimetres (inclusive of its tail)!

Though rats can survive for five days without food, they would die if they had no water to drink for just two days!



A rat's life span is about three years.

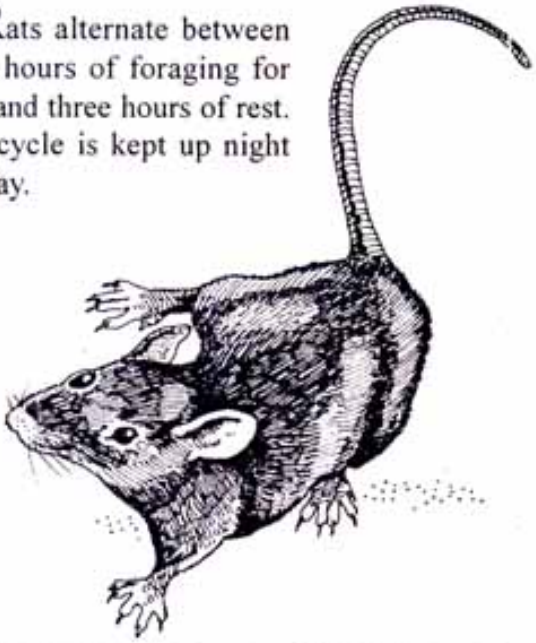


Rats start reproducing within forty to eighty days of birth! The gestation period for baby rats is just 24 days!

The female bears ten to fifteen babies at a time. In three years time, a pair of rats could lead to the birth of around thirty five crore young ones! Even if 95 out of 100 rats in an area were to be destroyed, the remaining five would produce 95 young ones in just a year's time!

A rat can dip its tail into any covered dish of liquid through a tiny gap, and suck its tail to consume the food. It can even empty a full vessel of milk by this method!

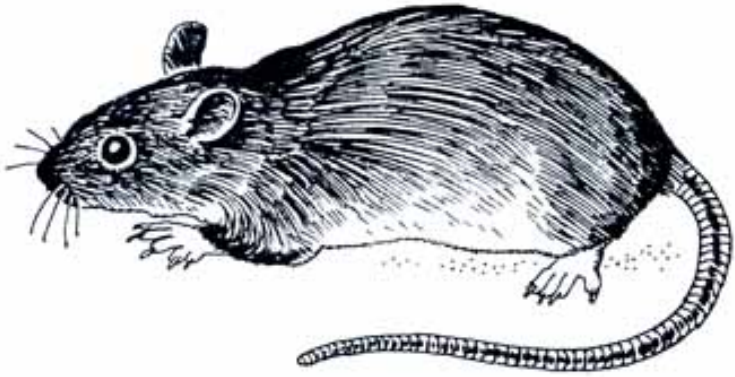
Rats alternate between three hours of foraging for food and three hours of rest. This cycle is kept up night and day.

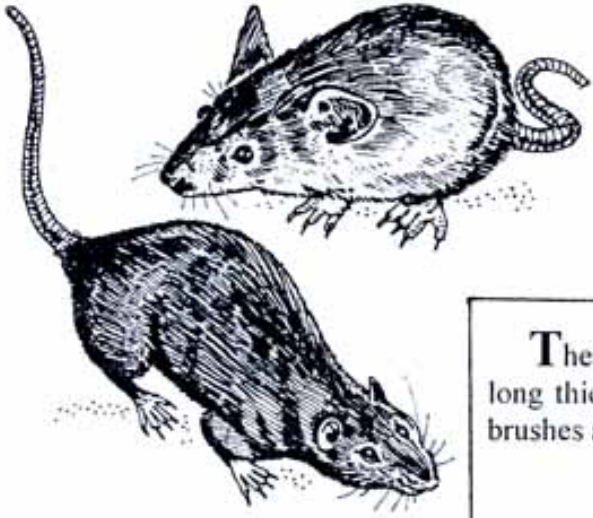


Six rats consume the food required for one human being. 25 percent of the food we grow, is consumed by rats.

The rats strong teeth could open a tin can. The teeth are made up of lime (calcium) and colagen (a variety of protein)

The rat's teeth grow at the rate of 13 cms a year! This would make the creature very uncomfortable. Rats, therefore constantly chew and forage at something or the other to wear out some length of their teeth!



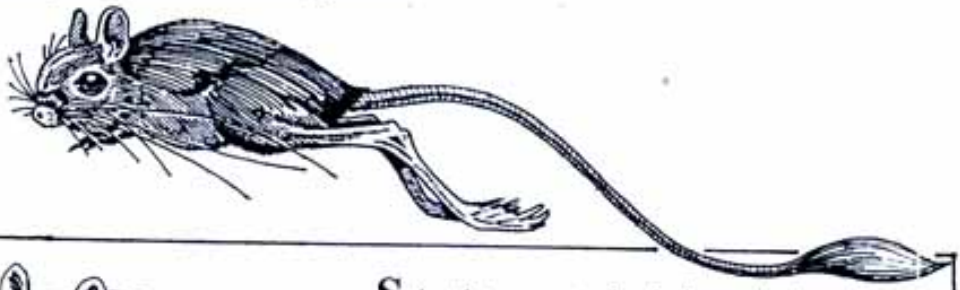


Rats spread some 35 varieties of diseases! In the 14th century, one third of the human population was wiped out by plague - a disease caused by rats.

A rat has very poor eyesight but has very keen hearing and sense of smell. It can even hear sound waves which are not audible to the human ear.

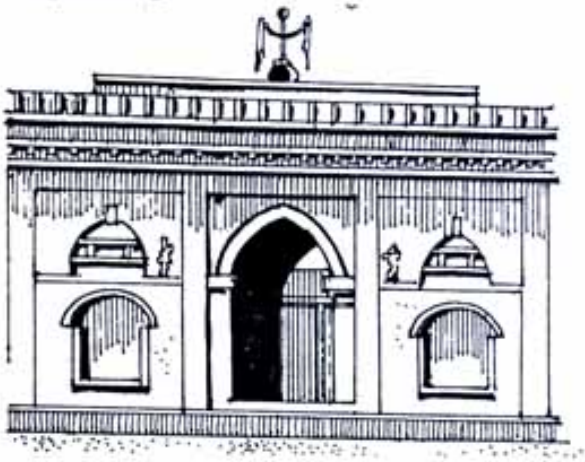
The Coypu rat of South America has long thick hair which is used to make brushes and weave garments!

The Kangoroo Rat which lives in the desert, can look around itself in a sphere of 360° without turning its head. (The eyes move in special sockets) This rat can leap across 4.5 metres at a time. Its fingers are longer than its body and it can live for three years without drinking water!



Scientists use rats for their medical and physiological experiments and studies. This is because rat protein is closest to human protein in its qualities. (There is a ninety percent similarity)

Scientists have recently discovered that human organs can be grown on a rats body. For example, to set right a damaged human ear, some polymer and cartilage cells are put together in ear shape. This 'dye cast' which has small pores in it, is implanted into the skin on a rat's back. The rat's blood flows through this artificial ear, stimulating the cartilage cells to grow and fill out the ear shaped attatchment. This 'ear' is then removed from the rat's body and fixed on to the human being. This technology is known as tissue engineering.



The Deshnak Temple in Rajasthan is dedicated to rats! It is also known as the Rat Temple! Around 20,000 rats live in this temple. People worship these rats with reverence! They feed them and never kill them!

Name: **Raveeshankar. S**
Age : 13
Address : 87C Udayavani Illam, Muniappan Kovil Thottam, Sathy Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore 641 006.
Hobbies : Reading books, playing chess, volley ball, shuttle, karate.

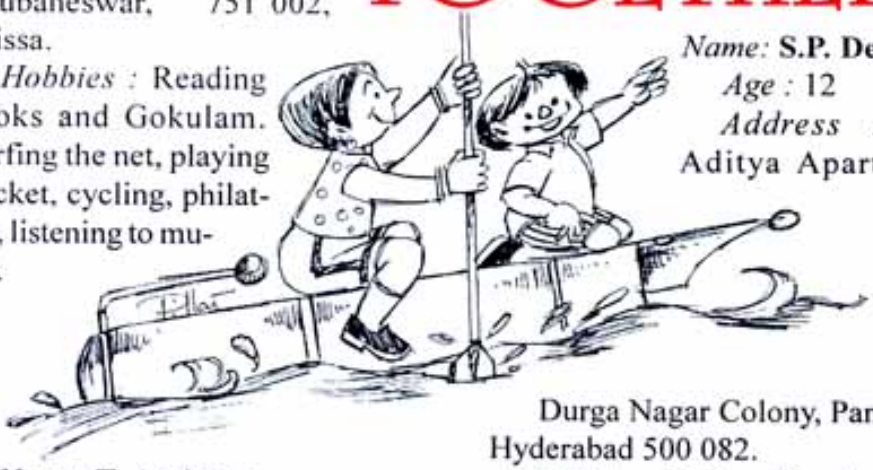
Name: **Abhishek Chatterjee**
Age : 14
Address : Plot No 1014, SriRam Nagar, Old Town, Bhubaneswar, 751 002, Orissa.
Hobbies : Reading books and Gokulam. Surfing the net, playing cricket, cycling, philately, listening to music.

Name: **T. Archana**
Age : 13
Address : C-9, Sword Street, Block - 11, Neyveli, Tamilnadu.
Hobbies : Reading, swimming, playing chess.

Name: **Shubham Raizada**
Age : 11
Address : A-204 Vashodeep Kolshat (Upper), Post Sandoz Baug, Thane 400 607.
Hobbies : Playing chess & badminton, reading books.

Name: **Sonia Nair**
Age : 13
Address : 54, MGR St, Lakshmipuram, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai.
Hobbies : Photography, reading books, listening to music or singing, playing with dogs.

SAIL TOGETHER!



Name: **S.P. Deepika**
Age : 12
Address : 307, Aditya Apartments, Durga Nagar Colony, Panjagutta, Hyderabad 500 082.
Hobbies : Making friends, surfing, reading Gokulam, collecting information about Harry Potter, singing.

Name: **Sumith S. Bhat**
Age : 12
Address : Door No 15-1-55, Narayani Nayak Compound, Upper Bendur, Mangalore 575 002, Karnataka.
Hobbies : Playing computer games, watching T.V., playing chess, playing cricket, reading Gokulam and other comics.

THE HUNGRY VISITOR!

This happened during the summer holidays. My cousins and I had gathered at Ooty, at our Aunt's house. We decided to go for a picnic and packed a huge basket of sandwiches, plums, pears and potato chips. Though all of us children wanted to eat on the way, the grown-ups held us back till we got to the picnic spot. It was a lovely place with tea bushes and tall eucalyptus trees. There was a gentle fragrance in the air. As the grown-ups went for a walk, we children began playing on the grass. Soon it was time for lunch. But to our shock we found that the picnic basket had been nudged open. The food was half-eaten and bits and pieces lay scattered. As we looked around wondering who the thief was, we saw a fat cow a small distance away. "Moo..." said the cow. It sounded as if she was thanking us for the food! Suddenly my uncle started laughing at the situation and all of us joined in with him, though the joke was on us!

- Aarathy Balakrishnan, Std VI,
Chinmaya Vidyala, Triupunithura

At the Quiz Class

When I was in second standard, my mother sent me to a quiz class. I was not interested at all. The class was divided into groups. I was not paying attention. I was looking at an ant moving up the wall and trailing it with my finger. Just as my hand moved up high, the instructor called for those who knew the answer to a question, to put up their

hands. Spotting my hand high up, he called me to answer. But I did not know the answer to the question and our team lost marks because of this! My team mates scolded me hard and I just about held back my tears till I got back home. That was the first and last quiz class I went to.

- S. Vyshali, Std IX, Alpha Matriculation HS.School, Chennai

Waded to Safety!

Remember November 2005? The rains played havoc in TamilNadu and all the rivers were in spate... On 24th November, schools in Trichy were closed due to heavy rains. My father phoned in the evening to ask if all was well. At that time the rain had stopped. But soon after we answered him the rain started pouring again. Suddenly water started rushing into our house. A stream bank nearby, had breached! I started crying. My mother quickly decided that we should leave for grandfather's house at Pudukkottai immediately. My sister and I, along with our mother, waded through the flood water and reached the main road, about 300 metres away. Fortunately we caught a bus to the main bus stand from where we caught another bus to go to Pudukkottai. We reached safe but it was so scary!

- S. Raja Nandhini, Std VIII, Arockia Matha Matriculation HS. School, Trichy

Strange Socks!

Ramu: Shamu, tell me, where do cats go for a holiday?
Shamu: No idea!
Ramu: To 'Mew York City'!

Teacher: Nitin what is a cyclone?
Nitin: A loan to buy cycles sir?

- S. Vismitha, Age 12, Bangalore.

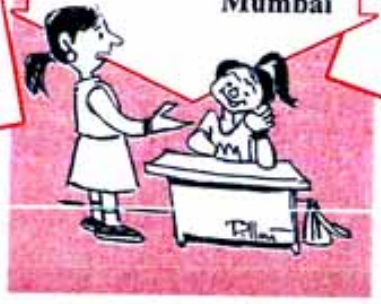
Robber: Give me the money or else...
Lady: Or, else what?
Robber: Don't confuse me; this is my first job!

- S. Vismitha, Bangalore

English Teacher: Santosh, I want you to correct this sentence: 'It was me that broke the window'
Santosh: It wasn't me that broke the window.

"Why is history the sweetest subject?"
"Because it is full of dates."

- Satish Krishnan, Std IX, The S.I.A. High School, Mumbai



"What a strange pair of socks you are wearing, one is green and other is blue!"
"Yes, it is really strange. I have another pair just like this at home."

- Subha Narayanan, Std XII, Vani Vidyalaya, Mumbai

Art Gallery

P. Bhargavi,
Age 10, Chennai

Priyanka Nayak Std VIII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Bhubaneswar

G. Sushil Vasan,
Std V, D.A.V.S.S.School,
Chennai

G. Pavithra, Std V,
Vedavalli Vidyalaya S.S. School,
Walajapet

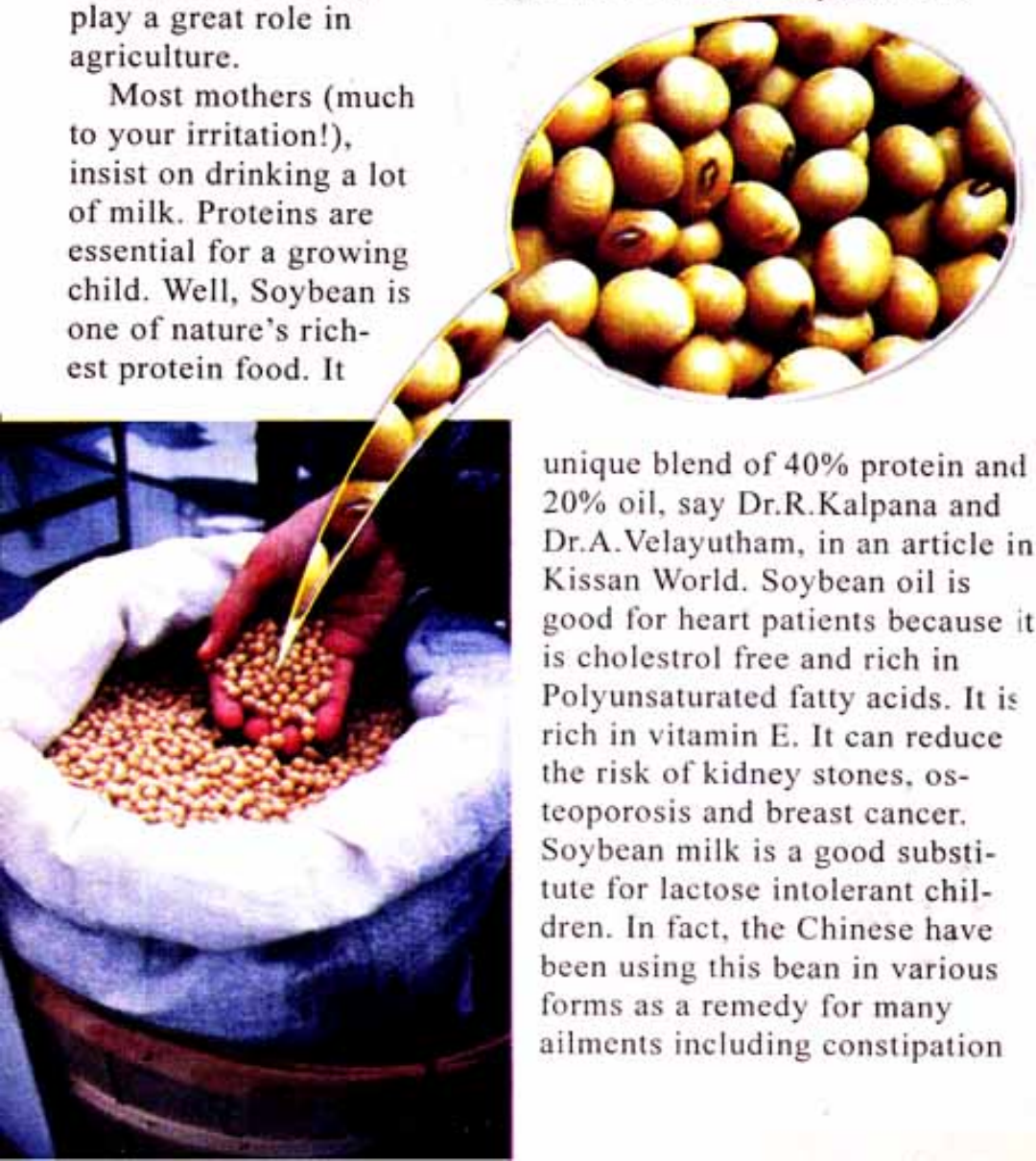
V. Jeffry Daniel, Std VII,
Don Bosco School,
Nasik

Meghna murali, UKG,
Mary Mount Holy Agnelslsc
Thiruvananthapuram

"What's Mr. Bean (from the cartoons you watch) doing in Scientech?" Sorry folks! Here we are going to talk about the benefits of the humble soybean and how science and technology play a great role in agriculture.

Most mothers (much to your irritation!), insist on drinking a lot of milk. Proteins are essential for a growing child. Well, Soybean is one of nature's richest protein food. It produces five times more protein than rice, thrice the amount from wheat or egg, and twice as much as other pulses, meat and fish and (hold your breath!) ten times that of milk! Certainly a Golden Bean or Miracle Bean, isn't it, especially for vegetarians?

But that's not all . Soybean is a



unique blend of 40% protein and 20% oil, say Dr.R.Kalpana and Dr.A.Velayutham, in an article in Kissan World. Soybean oil is good for heart patients because it is cholestrol free and rich in Polyunsaturated fatty acids. It is rich in vitamin E. It can reduce the risk of kidney stones, osteoporosis and breast cancer. Soybean milk is a good substitute for lactose intolerant children. In fact, the Chinese have been using this bean in various forms as a remedy for many ailments including constipation

and for removing toxins from the system and as a skin cleansing agent. For diabetics, soya is ideal. It contains only 21% carbohydrate as opposed to 54-60% in other pulses.

Today, soybean is very popular and is available in many forms. Apart from Chinese food which lavishly makes use of soya, there is tofu (soy cheese) which tastes like our own paneer. One can very well substitute delicious soy milk, defatted soy flour (50% protein), soybean oil, soy nuggets (texturised vegetable protein) and granules in place of high-fat animal milk, atta and maida, edible oils, and vegetables and meats repectively.

But for research scientists, the great beneficial effects of the humble soybean would have never come to light. Soya is considered the future panacea for a hungry world. Soy rich food is sure to lead the world to better health too. Go ahead and make sure Mr. Miracle Bean forms a part of your daily diet!

THE MIRACLE BEAN!

New Arrivals

Yes, there was one great big plus point in living with these people-creatures. It made up for the many bad things, like having stones thrown at you for no reason at all. In one, short word, it was this: rats. "Rats love people," Gundu explained to Keeri, "because people are dirty and throw leftover food around that they can eat."

"Yuk," observed Keeri.

"Each to his own," said Gundu wisely.

"Oh be quiet. I still say Yuk." But like Gundu, Keeri was developing a taste for rats. And rats were everywhere! Hunting was so much easier here than in the forest. So, for the first time in their lives, the Humangooses had time... to read, observe, sun-bathe, scratch, and other favourite activities.

"Yes," said Gundu, stroking his chin and looking as wise as he could (which was easy because he was very sleepy), "yes, there are certainly some advantages to this move from the jungle to the rice paddy. However, Keeri, let me tell you...."

He stopped there, because Keeri wasn't listening anymore. She looked like she was bursting with news. And she was. "Babies," she blurted out. "We're going to have babies pretty soon."

For about two and a half seconds, Gundu was too shocked to react. Then he turned into a statue, and froze for a whole minute. Then he gave a most un-statue-like jump and shouted a loud Yahoo! that echoed three times

as it hit the low hills bordering the rice paddy.

"Babies!" he shrieked. "Kids! Children! Offspring! Family! Tiny-tots! Er..." He was surprised how quickly he'd run out of synonyms.

"I gather you're happy?" said Keeri.

"Happy?" he shouted, dancing back and forth, "You bet. I'm delighted! Excited! Joyful! Ecstatic!"

"I get the point," said Keeri, pinching his nose. This was her way of showing him how very much she loved him, in spite of his strange ways and many synonyms.

Oh, the next few weeks just flew by. Gundu and Keeri made all kinds of things for the babies. The people-creatures turned out to be extremely useful. One night Gundu found an old wooden box near the village and brought it home to use as a cradle. Transporting it was a long and tiring process. He butted it, inch by inch, with his head. By the end of it, he had both a cradle and a headache.

Then came another headache. What were they going to name the children? There would be at least two, and maybe three. Keeri suggested Pretty and Fairy, because she wanted girls. Gundu growled in disapproval. He liked Dimby and Guru, because he wanted, I mean WANTED, boys and only boys. This created a week-long Cold War. Then Keeri came up with a solution.

"I know what. We'll junk all these names. We'll think of new ones, names that can be used for both girls

and boys."

Gundu felt he had never heard anything so brilliant. Tears of admiration prickled his eyes. But he also wished, just a little, that he'd thought of this solution first. But this was just a momentary feeling. It passed on, and the two of them set about thinking up girl-boy names.

Jumpy (girl) and Bounce (boy) arrived a week later, just as the south-west monsoon began. It's a time mongooses love... a time of puddles and streams, drips and drops, frogs, toads and other delicious hoppers. For the first week the new-borns didn't venture out. They'd peep out of the burrow, sniff at the world, and jump back into its dark safety. Gundu had to bring them food.... All three of them, because Keeri pretended she had to stay home with them. He'd become a food-express, and it was becoming boring. It was a bit of a headache, and he couldn't wait for the kids to leave the burrow and start hunting on their own.

But when Jumpy and Bounce did leave the burrow, it was an even bigger headache. He wished, then, that they were small and helpless again.

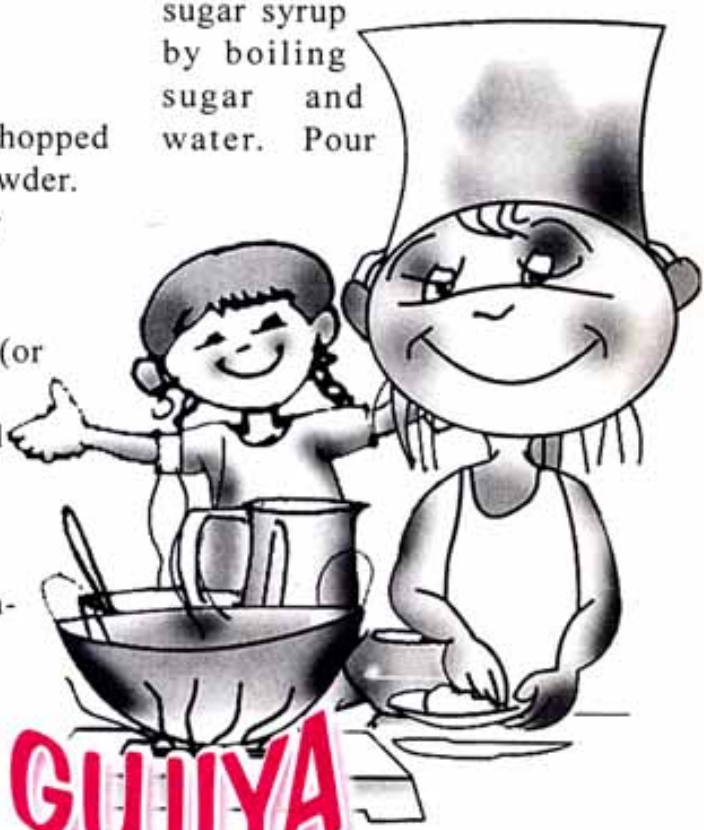
Still, they were great fun to have around, and life was good. "You're a lucky guy," he told himself at least once a day, as he watched Bounce and Jumpy having a somersault race, or practicing cobra-catching with a piece of rope, or doing high-jumps over Keeri. **(To be continued)**

MAWA GUJIYA

You will need:

1 Kg maida
500 gms mawa (khoa without Sugar)
100 gms almonds chopped
100gms pistachios chopped
5 gms cardamom powder.
200gms castor sugar
½ gm saffron
100gms ghee
250 gms refined oil (or ghee) for frying.
1Kg sugar (crystal sugar)
500 ml water

Mix almonds, pistachios, cardamom powder, castor sugar and saffron with mawa. Roast lightly in a pan on low flame. This is the Gujiya filling. Make soft dough with 1 kg maida, 100 gms ghee, and warm water. Divide dough into balls. Roll each ball into a small chapatti, about 10 cm (4 inches) in diameter. Fill 1 tbsp of mixture in this chapatti. Moisten edges of chapatti and fold one side onto the other. Fry till golden brown in ghee or refined oil. Make medium thick sugar syrup by boiling sugar and water. Pour over gujiyas. Allow the syrup to drain. Let it cool. Serve garnished with saffron strands and pistachios.



You may try out a small quantity for the first attempt.

- D. Lavanya Yadhav,
Std VII,
Model English School,
Mumbai

Famous Literary Characters

Name the famous outlaw who lived in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire.

2) Which naughty, little, lovable character was created by Hank Ketcham?

3) An apple disagreed with her, but a royal person made her well again.

4) Who wrote a notice which read, "take care he bites?"

5) Name the mongoose in the 'Jungle Book' written by Rudyard Kipling.

- Tania Das, Std X, Pranabananda Holy High School, Silchar, Assam

Answers:
Robinhood, Dennis the Menace, Snowhite, David Copper field, Riki Tikki Tavi

Word Puzzle

Complete the words below starting with 'In', using the clues given.

In - Our motherland
In - Conclude
In - Endless
In - Harmful
In - Teach
In - Inside
In - Baby
In - To comprise
In - To make greater in size
In - Single or each
In - To begin

- J. Jane Eyre, Std X, Cuddalore

Answers:
ndia, Infer, Infinite, Injurious, Instruct, nterior, Infant, Include, Increase, Individual, nitiate

Find the 8 colours down, up diagonally, reverse.

M	E	G	N	A	R	O	E	U	W	A	P
N	L	P	G	B	C	G	R	E	E	N	E
M	K	O	Q	F	Y	D	F	Q	R	V	Y
J	A	D	P	R	B	L	A	C	K	X	E
B	I	R	H	U	X	G	I	S	P	B	T
L	E	A	O	S	R	J	H	M	Y	R	I
U	U	T	C	O	W	P	K	E	O	O	H
E	B	V	A	Z	N	L	L	N	T	W	W
G	F	K	Y	N	O	L	B	E	Z	N	S
I	C	N	J	H	O	P	C	F	J	D	N
D	X	I	B	W	Q	V	G	K	E	I	Q
H	E	P	K	M	R	S	U	R	H	M	O
W	A	L	Z	G	R	E	Y	L	T	P	R

- S. Vismitha, Stella Maris School, Bangalore

Answers:
blue, grey, white, black, green, orange, brown, pink

CAPITAL HUNT

Clues:

1. Great Britain
2. Japan
3. India
4. Pakistan
5. Russia
6. Srilanka
7. Canada
8. Afghanistan
9. Bangladesh
10. Chile

- Surya Harikrishnan, Std VI,
Sindhi High School, Bangalore

Answers: 1. London, 2. Tokyo, 3. Delhi, 4. Islamabad, 5. Moscow, 6. Colombo, 7. Ottawa, 8. Kabul, 9. Dhaka, 10. Santiago

Booknook

The Case of the Unwilling Umpire and Other stories

You want a nice mystery book that you can finish in two or three hours? Get hold of the A-Z mystery series written by Ron Roy. He is a teacher who recently started writing mystery books for children aged 7-9 years.

All the 26 A-Z mystery books are about three

fourth standard children Dink, Josh and Ruth Rose and their dog, who live in a town in USA. They are young detectives who solve mysteries involving everything from stolen pets to counterfeit money.

In the story *The Unwilling Umpire*, a theft takes place in broad daylight, under the noses of almost all the townspeople. A friendly baseball match is held between men and women of Greenlawn. However, the game is called off halfway through due to the theft of priceless autographed baseballs belonging to Thaddeus Pocket. The police suspect Pete Unkenholz, the umpire of the baseball game. Pete had been into the building where the balls where kept, only a few minutes before they were found to be missing. However, Dink, Josh and Ruth Rose feel that he is innocent. So it's up to them to prove that Pete is innocent and find out the identity of the real thief.

And sure enough they are able to prove it...But the shocking fact is the thief is a "friend"!!!

Title: The Unwilling Umpire – A- Z Mysteries **Author**: Ron Roy **Illustrated by** John Steven Gurney. A Stepping Stone Book **Price:** Rs 73

Website: News about these books, a quiz and details about the author at www.ronroy.com

Excerpt:

Pete, the umpire, trudged up towards the clubhouse. The kids watched Mr. Pocket walk over to home plate. "What's going on?" they heard him ask the catcher. "He went to get his allergy medicine," Jake told Mr. Pocket. Mr. Pocket made an announcement over the public-address system. The crowd relaxed and waited for the game to continue. But when Pete hadn't returned after five minutes, people began to wonder what was going on.

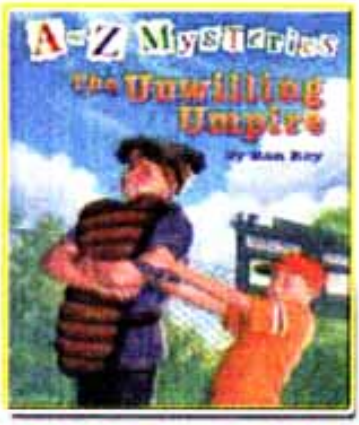
"I'm going to use the boys' room," Josh said. "Be right back." Josh jogged to the clubhouse while the crowd waited for Pete to return. Suddenly Josh came racing back to the bleachers. He slid in next to Dink, out of breath.

ZIPPY, GRIPPING MYSTERIES!

"What's up?" Ruth Rose asked.

"You're not gonna believe this!" Josh whispered to his friends. "Mr. Pocket's autographed baseballs-they're gone!"

Ruth Rose looked toward the clubhouse. "Maybe Mr. Pocket moved them someplace else when the game started," she said.



Josh was shaking his head. "No! The glass case is smashed in a million pieces," he said. "Someone stole those balls!"

Dink and Ruth rose stared at Josh openmouthed. "Should we tell Mr. Pocket?" Ruth Rose asked after a few seconds.

"We have to," Dink said.

"He'll go bonkers!" Josh predicted.

The three kids walked over to Mr. Pocket.

Dink swallowed, then tugged on the man's arm. "Hi there," Mr. Pocket said. "Where's the ump? These people want some baseball action!"

"Um, did you do anything with those six baseballs?" Dink asked.

"Why, of course," Mr. Pocket said, "You saw me lock them in the case."

"You didn't move them anywhere else?" Ruth Rose asked.

Mr. Pocket's smile vanished. "What's going on, kids? Has something happened to my baseballs?"

"They're gone!" Josh said. "The case is smashed. There's glass all over the floor!"

Mr. Pocket turned and marched toward the clubhouse.

The three kids watched him go.

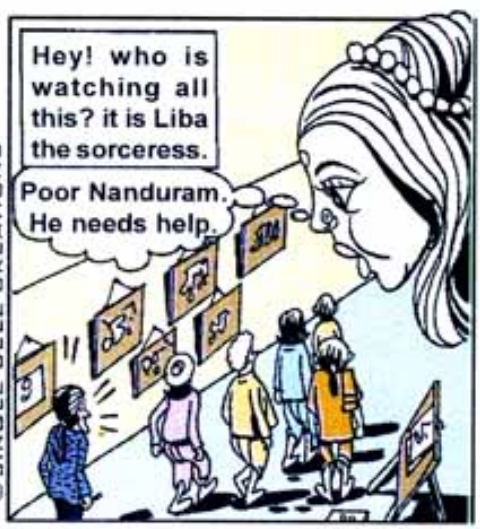
"You didn't happen to see Pete when you went inside, did you?" Ruth Rose asked Josh.

"Nope. The first thing I saw when I got inside was all the glass," Josh said. "I was the only one in the place."

"Gosh," Dink said, "do you think Pete stole Mr. Pocket's baseballs?"

NANDURAM'S HONESTY

© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS



Meanwhile the king came to see Nanduram's painti
Your majesty.
This is the time.
What a beautiful picture! A true beauty.
Uh!
I want this picture.
No majesty!
What? just name the price!
Pardon Majesty. This is not my painting. I don't have the right to sell this.

The king sadly went away.
Nandu, How stupid of you! He would have paid even a thousand gold coins for this!
Gopu, I have no right to get it!
It's no use arguing with this fool. I will steal this painting at night. I can become rich.
Thus
Now off to the palace in the morning.
At the palace -
Your majesty, Here is the picture you wanted.
Really!
But this will cost a thousand gold coins.
That's not a problem.
I am lucky.
Give me the painting.

The king took the picture.
Now is the fun.
Where is the picture? Are you trying to make a fool of me?
Hey! How come?
Guards, give the rogue a hundred lashes!
Oh no!
Meanwhile at Nanduram's
Nanduram -
Oou! Did she walk out of the painting...?
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
Yes, I am sorceress Liba. I like your honesty. Even during a miserable time you did not succumb to dishonesty.
I hereby buy all your paintings. You can take this in turn.
So nice of you!

Find the

Our over-worked artist has by mistake j

Some mistakes are pretty obvious. But the

your help t

5.Dwarf elephant 6.Eiffel tower 7.Turtle on the tree 8.Boy
13.Stars 14.Boats 15.Ball

Mistakes

bled up a forest and a domestic scene.
ire nearly 15 errors! Our busy editor needs
nd them...

1.Hen & chicks 2.Dog & the kennel 3.Bananas 4.Ice-cre
9.Bird's nest on the ground 10.Fish 11.Basket 12.Table

● **S. Suriya, Bangalore**

? I am suffering from head lice. What is the treatment? How can it be prevented?

! Apply a special shampoo containing permethrin to the hair. Leave it on the head overnight with a towel wrapped around lightly. Wash clean in the morning and then dry your hair. It is wise to use this medication simultaneously for other family members and domestic servants who are in close contact with you. Cleanliness of the head prevents lice infestation. Keep the hair short and trim it frequently.

● **H. Lawrence, Ooty**

? How can we stay healthy? Give me some tips.

★ Keep your body, home and surroundings clean.

★ Eat a balanced diet containing plenty of fruits and vegetables.

★ Drink clean, boiled and cooled water.

★ Exercise regularly.

★ Get enough sleep.

★ Practice safety habits at home and outside to prevent falls and fractures.

★ Stay active through study, work and play.

★ Keep good company.

★ Don't ever get trapped into addictions like smoking or drinking.

★ Keep a positive attitude towards life.

★ Do things that make you happy.

When Should We

★ Get regular health check-ups done.

● **R. Saranya, NewDelhi - 2**

? What is a cyst? Is it a threat to life?

! Cyst is an abnormal sac within the

body containing fluid and sometimes solid matter. Most cysts are not dangerous unless they are cancerous. Cysts can be removed by surgery.

● **Subha Narayanan, Dombivli (E)**

At what intervals should we change our toothbrushes? Why?

! Usually dentists advise that we should change our toothbrush once in three months. After this period, the toothbrush starts losing its lustre and the tufts of the bristles become bent. However, if these happen even before three months, we should immediately change the brush.

Change Toothbrushes?

● **Parvathi S.Kumar, Kannur, Kerala**

? I am very short for my age and am taking growth hormone injection. Will it be harmful later on?

! Growth hormone injection has some side effects. Consult your family doctor and then decide whether you should continue the treatment.

● **A.K. Varun, Chennai - 90**

? I am 14 years old. Is fluoride toothpaste necessary for me?

! Fluoride is important in fighting cavities in the teeth. But if children younger than six years swallow too much fluoride, their teeth may have white spots. To keep this from happening, it is advisable to use only a small amount of toothpaste (about the size of pea). If your drinking water does not contain enough fluoride, you may need to use fluoride toothpaste. Check with your dentist about your specific fluoride needs.

TOWN OF TEMPLES

Ever since my annual exams got over, I had been waiting for the Mysore trip the family had planned. Finally, the day of travel dawned and I was so excited. In fact, when we set foot in Mysore, I was thrilled.

In that city of sandalwood and palaces our first visit was to St.Philomena's Church. This is one of the largest churches in India and it contains the holy remains of St.Philomena.

About 18 kilometres away from Mysore is Srirangapatna. Here we saw 'Dariya Daulat Bagh' - the summer palace of Tipu Sultan. Many relics from Tipu Sultan's time are preserved in this palace. The mural paintings depicted exciting war scenes.

We also saw the Gumbaz - a colossal dome crested building. The tombs of Tipu, Haider Ali and his mother are all to be seen here.

Srirangapatnam lies on the banks of the Cauveri and there is a beautiful temple here, on a little sandy piece of land encircled by the river. This is the temple of Lord Ranganatha. There is a marvellous image here, of the Lord in reclining posture. This is the temple which gives the town its name. As we stepped into the temple, we could feel a flow of divine energy.

Our next visit was to the Brindavan Gardens, adjoining the Krishnaraja Sagar dam. The lush green lawns with colourful blooms here and there, made the place a heaven on earth! Amidst the garden were

a number of fountains which sprinkled water in decorative patterns. After sunset the fountains were illuminated with electric lights of different colours. I must say the sight put the moon and stars to shame!

We went to Chamundi Hills temple which houses the Godess Chamundeshwari. While driving back down the hill, we caught a glimpse of the huge Nandi (bull) statue.

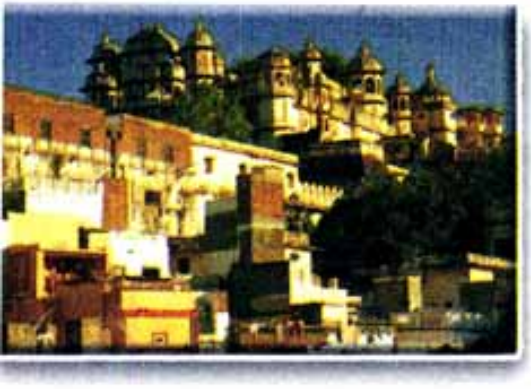
Like all good things our Mysore trip also came to an end. Though back home, the memories of this trip will be etched in my mind for many many years.

- R. Ashwin,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Chennai

AND PALACES!

UDAIPUR

This year's summer tour was joyful indeed. First I went to Ahmedabad. From there I went to Udaipur. It is called 'white city'. The distance between Ahmedabad and Udaipur is 248 kms. It takes just 5 hours to reach the destination. Udaipur is not a big city; but it is a beautiful city. There is a famous palace which tells the history of Rajputs. Udaipur was built in the memory of the Rajput king named Rana Udai Singh.



From Udaipur I went to Nathdwara which is just 60 kms from Udaipur. There is a famous Lord Krishna (Shrinathji) temple in Nathdwara.

In the Udaipur lake, there is a five star hotel in which Ravina Tandon got married!

While returning from Udaipur, I saw the Maharana Pratap Memorial Park. There I saw the statue of Chetak (horse of Maharana Pratap).

Rajasthan's art and architecture are world famous. I enjoyed my tour.

- Pradhan Kashyap, Std VII,
The Oxford Public School,
Bangalore

THE WANDERING MONK

"Who is God? Is there a God? What does he look like?" These and many more such questions popped up in Narendranath's mind. A student of philosophy and born to Biswanath Dutta, a lawyer in Calcutta in 1863, Narendra later came to be known the wold over as Swami Vivekananda. As a child, his mother Bhuwaneswaridevi told him stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. She inspired the latent virtues of fearlessness, honesty, justice and devotion in her son. Narendra would go into intense meditation and concentration that helped him remember the important things in these books.

Soon Narendra was well versed with both Indian Vedanta and western philosophy of Kant, Hegel and others. Narendra's mind was a rare combination of science and literature. (He even went to the medical college to see for himself the structure of the brain and nerves to understand the flow of energy through the various chakras in the body.)

Meeting with Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa at the age of eighteen, proved to be a turning point. "Sir, have you seen God?" he asked. "Yes, I see him as clearly as one sees an apple over the palm, nay, even more intently! You can also see Him!" was the reply. Narendra had asked several seers but never got such an emphatic reply.

Narendra became Ramakrishna's disciple at Dakshineshwar near Calcutta and apart from knowing the essence of religion as "Realization of the highest Truth" he also sang devotional songs on Sri Krishna and Kali. For five years he was groomed to become a great yogi with the sharpest of intellect, reason and logic.

Suddenly his father died. Narendra realised that his family

was in utter poverty. He could not get a job and so he decided to give up sanyas. He went to the shrine of Kali to pray for food, clothing and other essentials three times, but everytime came out after begging for jnana (wisdom) and bhakti! His guru laughed at him and said "What fool would ask for transient and useless things, when in fact he was being granted jnana! Asking for pebbles when someone was distributing gems! Asking for vegetables from the king when the whole kingdom was being granted!" Swami Vivekananda now understood that formless God and God with form were one and the same. His happy guru guaranteed that his family would be well looked after.

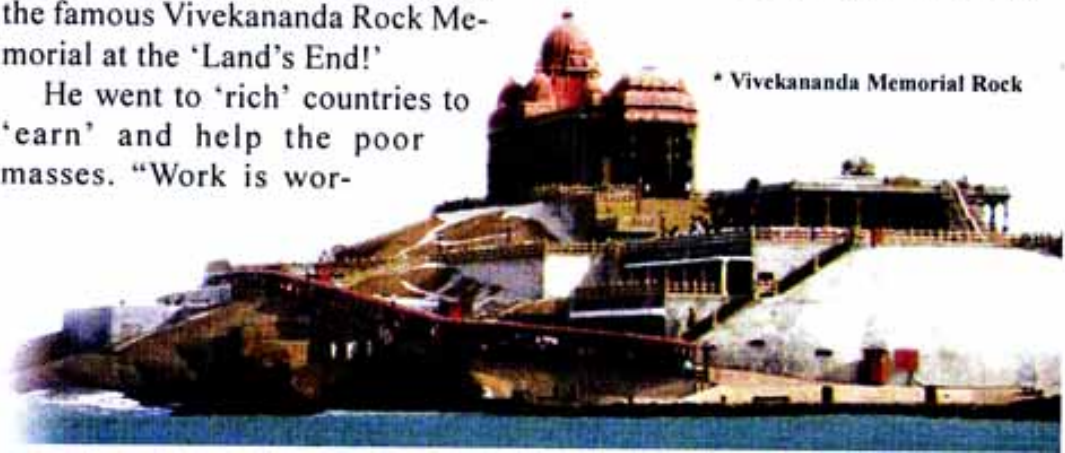
Soon Vivekananda wanted to spread the message of Vedanta and how it could be applied in day to day life to alleviate the sufferings of the masses. He travelled all over India from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari. In fact the rock where he meditated at Kanyakumari is now the famous Vivekananda Rock Memorial at the 'Land's End!'

He went to 'rich' countries to 'earn' and help the poor masses. "Work is worship" was the new mantra to help India rise again. He established the Ramakrishna Mutt and even today the mutt continues its unparalleled service to the masses by providing food, education, medicines etc to the poor. Swamiji's human-centric religion and his stand against the caste system are what distinguished him. This young swamiji captured the imagination of the youth in India.

Vivekananda represented Hinduism at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1895. He addressed the gathering as "Brothers and sisters". This is a measure of the universality of his philosophy. He later spoke all over America and Europe.

This great yogi passed away at the young age of 39, but left for us his unparalleled legacy. Salutations to this salient saint, modern karma yogi, the great son of India!

- Kaushalya Narendran,
Std IX, Vasant Vihar High School, Thane (W)



* Vivekananda Memorial Rock

The Dare-Devil Pilots!

Shivraj, a Flying Officer in the Indian Air force had a nagging doubt. He questioned his Squadron Leader Gupta about it.

"Have you ever felt that we are murdering people?"

"I am glad you asked that question", said Gupta, "It is better to get rid of such disturbing thoughts. We are fighting enemies of our nation. We defend our territory against aggressors and infiltrators."

"But in that process some innocent, peace loving people too get killed!"

"Yes, it is true but unavoidable. It is not our intention to harm them. They won't get killed if there was no aggression in the first place.

Shivraj heaved a sigh of relief.

Tomorrow was Raksha Bandan day. Gupta had planned to take the day off to visit his family. A night's journey would take him to them.

Unfortunately, Gupta's leave was cancelled that forenoon and a 'scramble' was called.

All the pilots hurriedly gathered in the conference room. Wing Commander Bagadur addressed them. "Enemies are invading our territory. They seem to have planned this for a long time and are well prepared. It is mountainous terrain. It will take some time for our Army to reach the place to defend our country. But the Air Force will have no difficulty in reaching the spot quickly. We will lead the counter-attack effectively."

He spread a map on the table. The pilots gathered around it. Bagadur explained the situation and the location. He also wrote some key words and figures on the black board, which the pilots understood and assimilated. They had to be exactly on target while bombing. Otherwise, what Shivraj feared would come true. Innocent, peace - loving people would get killed.

The briefing over, Wing Commander Bagadur snapped: "Any questions?" There were none. "Go! Go! Go! And God be with you!"

Gupta, Shivraj and the other pilots ran towards their respective jet fighter planes. They were already in

combat uniform. Walking around their planes, they checked their readiness. They climbed into the cockpit, put on the ear phones and drew the hatch door above their heads to closed position.

They checked the controls. The engine of Gupta's plane roared, followed by the other fighters. Gupta was the first to move out. The sound was deafening. But the earphones and the well sealed cockpit kept the noise out. When at the end of the runway, the control room asked Gupta to rotate and the plane turned round. The long stretch of the runway was before him.Gupta pulled back the control stick and the nose

of the plane pierced the wind as it surged forward at great speed. In a few seconds the nose rose up and the plane was lifted above ground. Gupta's oxygen mask was in position when very soon, they were all flying in formation at 20,000 feet. The sortie had begun!

Minutes passed. They were nearing the place where action was needed - retaliation actually. Gupta, like all the rest of the pilots had to assess a lot of input data within a few seconds to determine his course of action. Courage, intelligence and a certain amount of instinct were needed. Gupta had them as also the others. He started the attack, Rockets flared from the wings of the fighter plane and found their targets. Bombs were dropped. He could see bright red flames followed by bellowing black smoke. He could well imagine the chaos caused to the enemy. He turned round, made a full circle to see all his colleagues complete similar tasks, one after the other. He was proud of them and a smile lit his face. Attacking with precision while flying was not easy. But all of them were well trained. Gupta was the first to attack and the last to leave with a victory loop, - when his plane's right wing got hit. The enemy had succeded in an anti aircraft missile strike! The plane began to sway and lose height. Gupta tried to control it in vain. It started shuddering. Gupta knew it was foolish to try and save the air craft. He levelled off, opened the hatch door above his head, and pressed the ejector button. He was thrown out of the plane, buckled to his seat! A parachute opened above his head and down below he could see the plane crash on a mountain side, throwing up balls of fire as well as flakes of snow!

Gupta freed himself, from the parachute and the ejected seat and

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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* You may send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.(gokulam@kalkiweekly. com)

Remember to send in your details - **Name, Age, Class, Name and Address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation. (Source must be mentioned wherever applicable.)**

We cannot guarantee publication of all your contributions nor

looked around. He had landed in an uninhabited valley and darkness was fast enveloping it. He spent the night under a tree making himself as warm as possible, covering his body with the parachute cloth and dry leaves and twigs spread over it.

"Hello there!" It was a heavenly voice! Gupta blinked his eyes open. She was not the angel of his dreams, but, a maiden from the near by village silhouetted by the early rays of the rising sun. The human angel carried a flask containing tea and a couple of chappathis rolled in a leaf. "I saw your plane crashing last evening and I just hoped that I could be of some help if there were any survivors," she said.

Having thanked her and after refreshing himself with some hot tea, Gupta walked with her towards her village. As they were nearing it, Gupta could hear the familiar sound of a chopper. The Air Force Base had sent a rescue helicopter in search of him. Gupta removed his shirt, tied it to a pole and signalled the helicopter.

Pretty soon Shivraj was by his side. "Thank God" he said, embracing Gupta.

"It's a nice feeling, to be alive" said Gupta smiling. He turned to take leave of his village angel.

"Wait" she said, and ran towards her hut. When she came back, she had two, 'rakshas' in her palm. "It is 'raksha bandan' day she said, and tied the rakshas on the wrists of both Gupta and Shivraj.

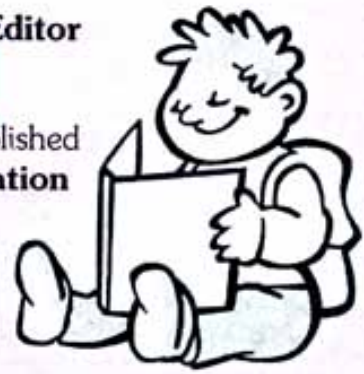
"But we brothers have nothing to give you in return right now" said Shivraj a little embarassed.

"You are giving me protection from our enemies and that, dear brother, is more valuable than anything else I can think of" said the village angel with a smile, while tears of affection swelled in the eyes of both Gupta and Shivraj.

is it possible to inform you about when it will be published. However, if you would like us to send it back on rejection, kindly enclose a stamped self - addressed envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE



If any of your creative contributions are published in **Gokulam** you will receive a **Participation Certificate**. (Letters and queries do not qualify). At the end of the one year period ending June 2006, the contributor who has collected the maximum number of certificates will receive a special prize.

Did You Know?

A Vacuum cleaner is a mechanical device which uses a draft of air to remove dust or other particulate matter from dry surfaces. It is especially useful on highly textured surfaces such as carpets and upholstery which are difficult to clean.

Usually an electrically powered fan is used to produce a zone in which the air pressure is below atmospheric pressure, causing a draft of air to flow through the material to be cleaned. The draft passes through a filter bag which traps the particles and the flow of air is then discharged back into the atmosphere. In some machines, the electric motor and wiring are sealed so that wet surfaces can be cleaned safely.

- Maheshwari, Std X, New Model School, Mumbai

- Goldfish has a memory span of just three seconds.

- Giraffes have no vocal cords.
- Donald Duck's middle name is Fauntleray.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- A cat's jaws can't move sideways.
- Virgina Woolf wrote all her books standing!

- Nidhi Choudhary, Jaipur

- Australia's box jelly fish have toxins more potent than the venom in cobras.
- A dragon fly is also known as "devil's darning needle", "horse stinger" and "devil's steelyard".
- Baby elephants can drink over 80 litres of milk a day.

- G.P. Mahitha, Std VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai

FIFA's here and the fever runs high. Here's a quiz for the season. Kick off the right answers and reach them to us by 10th June. Lucky winner gets a football!

1) Identify this prolific striker (in the picture), who won the 'Golden Boot' award in France '98...

Ans:

2) Who was the captain of the famous 1970 world cup winning Brazilian side?

Ans:

3. The Netherlands have reached the finals of two consecutive World Cups and have lost on both occasions, to West Germany in 1974 and to..... in 1978. (Fill the blank)

Ans:

4) Identify this stadium (in pic) that is going to host the Final of this year's World Cup.....

Ans:

Win a FOOTBALL!

WORLD CUP QUIZ

5) Which famous Italian striker,

nicknamed 'the divine ponytail' missed a crucial penalty kick in the penalty shootout for Italy against Brazil in the Final of USA '94?

Ans:

---

6) Dutchman Guus Hiddink coached two separate teams in 1998 and 2002 and reached the semifinals with these teams on both occasions. The two teams respectively are (Select the right combination and write in the space below):

a) Netherlands and South Korea
b) Turkey and South Korea
c) Croatia and Turkey
d) Netherlands and Turkey

Ans:

---

7) The 1986 semifinal between England and Argentina is remembered for two Diego Maradona goals - the dubious 'hand of god' goal followed by a sublime effort, still considered the greatest goal ever scored in World Cup history. Who was the English goalkeeper in that game?

Ans:

---

8) Australia have qualified for the FIFA World Cup finals this time for the first time in 32 years. Which South American team did they beat in the playoff to qualify?

Ans:

---

9) Ivory Coast won the 'African Cub of Nations' last year. True or False?

Ans:

My Name:.....

Class:.....

School:.....

Residence:.....

.....

.....

Send in you entries to:

The Editor, Gokulam,

Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

Krish Cross -

Clues Across

1. Summer resort, up in mountains, e.g. Ooty (4,7)

7. French article 'the' cutting short Ladakh town (2)

8. King of Indian fruits, for male Goan, however confused! (5)

9. Very much surer, derived from fears (5)

11. Which person? asks World Health Organisation (3)

12. Join, not untie! (5)

13. Not wet, and what 1 Dn. should not be (3)

14. Leftist's favourite colour -- a danger signal (3)

17. Young dog, looked either way (3)

18. Prefix for bone specialist (5)

20. California, in curtailed form (3)

21. Musical drama, produced from a rope? (5)

23. Pale purple colour and flower I call frantically (5)

24. Preposition - Foreign Office in retreat (2)

25. In exam hall, your response to questions is penned on this (6,5)

Clues Down

1. Wit causing amusment -bee's noise belongs to us (6)

2. Distance on earth measured in degrees, east/west of Greenwich. No latitude this (9)

3. Light drizzle, in bathroom perhaps, welcome in summer (6)

4. In addition, found in Laos too! (4)

5. The hot beverage from Darjeeling, needing cup & saucer (3)

6. The standard observed by Mr. No. (4)

10. Fielder standing next to wicketkeeper, may make early mistake (5,4)

15. A serving of ice-cream - 10! plod for it (6)

16. Football, not rugby where you score 'C' (6)

19. Carbonated soft drink ___ from coal? (4)

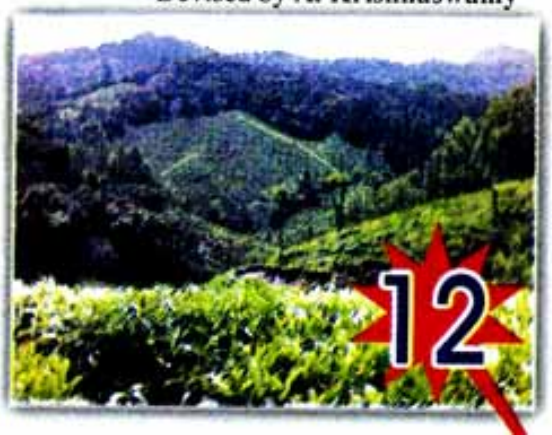
20. A small restaurant, with a different face (4)

22. Propel a boat __ in a single line (3)

Note: 1. Figure in brackets indicate no. of letters.

2. While some clues are straight definitions, others are cryptic, with hidden meanings. Watch out for anagrams - jumbling of words to solve clues.

- Devised by **A. Krishnaswamy**



ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
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• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies. **Last Date : 10.6.2006**

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. S. Poornima, Alpha Mat. Hr.Sec.School, Velachary
2. Konark J.S. Kumar, St. Joseph's Central, Mysore
3. V.M. Vivek Mohan, St. Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata
4. V. Mahadevan, P.S.Sr. Sec. School, Mylapore
5. N. Nandini, P.E.S. Central School, Mumbai

1 S	U	2 M	M	3 E	R		4 C	O	O	5 L
W		E		R		6 P	O			O
7 I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M		8 R	S
M		T		O		I		9 C		E
	10 A	S	T	R	11 O	N	O	M	E	R
12 S					R					S
13 H	Y	14 P	O	15 T	E	16 N	U	17 S	E	
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19 W	E		20 S	U	N	S	H	A	D	E
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THREE GO TREKKING

"This summer is going to be great" said Macy. She was packing her clothes into her huge trekking bag.

"Sure" said Joy as she wrapped up her trekking shoes in newspaper and stuffed them into her bag.

Both girls were to go trekking with Kate. But Kate was not at all happy at the prospect of climbing rocks and crossing rivers. They dragged her along though.

"I don't understand what joy you find in climbing these muddy rocks in the scorching heat" complained Kate. She settled herself down nicely on a huge stone on top of the hill and sipped some water.

"Come on Kate! Its nice and cool up here. The breeze could blow us off. Cheer up" said Joy.

"Look!" said Macy. "What a lovely view of the village we have from here! Not even a gold medal would give us such happiness."

"I know" said Kate, "but no one's going to give us medals for trudging up here-not even an aluminium foil medal!"

Just then Macy who had walked a little further, turned back and let out a shrill screm:

"Look, isn't that the road that we took to reach the foot of these hills? And look beyond... there - the hill range stretches as far as the eyes can see."

"That stretch of water must be the lake we saw from the bus" panted Joy who had now run up to join Macy.

Kate was still not interested. "When are we going back?" she asked.

Macy was losing her temper. Joy teased her: "I bet you can't make her trek down before sunset and before she runs out of things to grumble about."

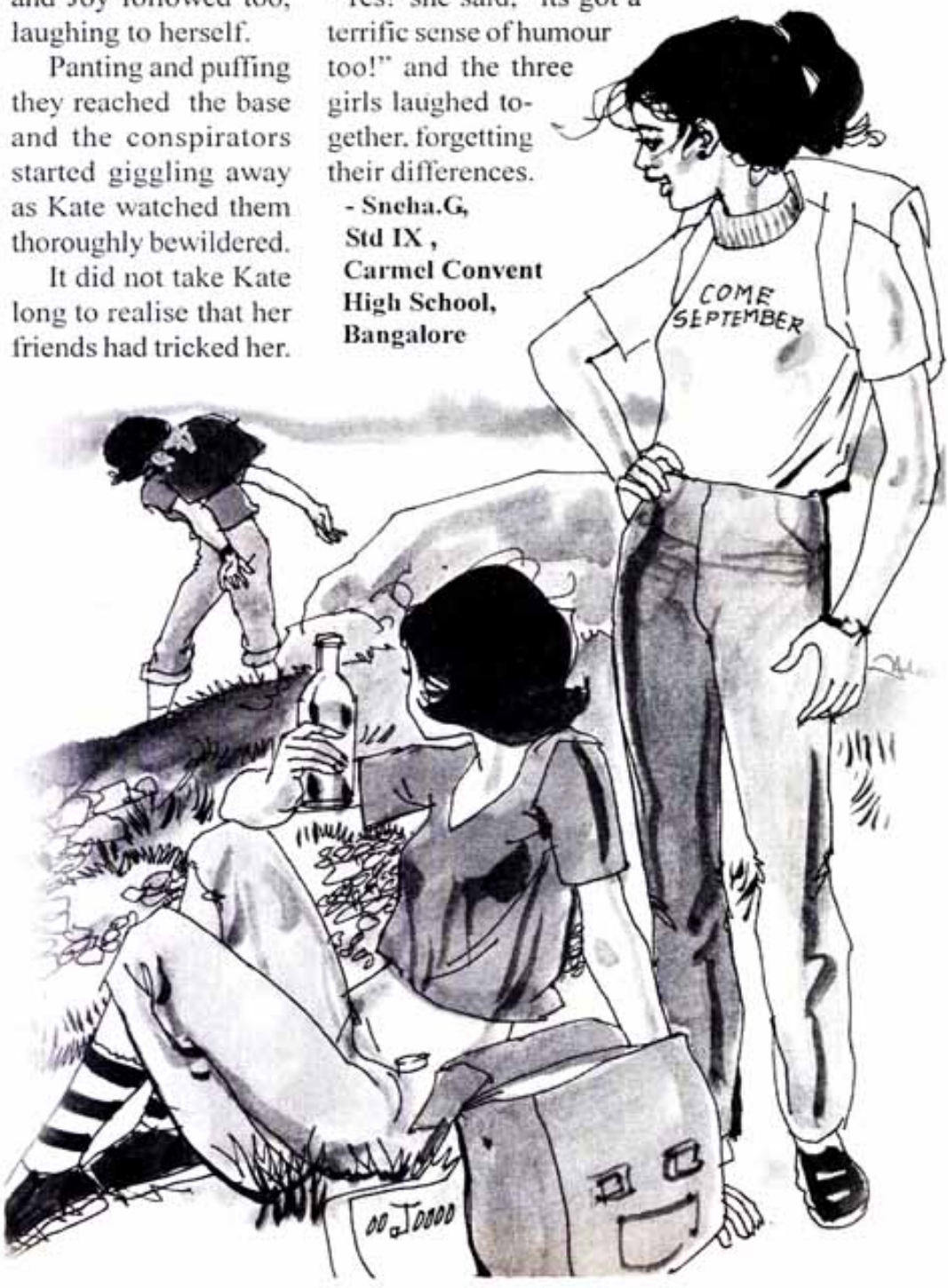
Macy's eyes gleamed for a second. She suddenly shouted, "there's a sloth bear behind us, run...!" and she started scampering down the foot path they had

trekked up. Sure enough Kate scampered along behind her and Joy followed too, laughing to herself.

Panting and puffing they reached the base and the conspirators started giggling away as Kate watched them thoroughly bewildered.

It did not take Kate long to realise that her friends had tricked her. She suddenly tugged at Joy's sleeve and said "oh, dear! Look, there's a sloth bear behind you" Joy turned back to see Macy behind her giggling away. "Yes!"she said, "its got a terrific sense of humour too!" and the three girls laughed together, forgetting their differences.

- Sneha.G,
Std IX ,
Carmel Convent
High School,
Bangalore



My dear Tree!

Oh! Dear tree,
Where are you?
I look into my garden,
I miss you!
You gave me your fruits,
To prepare my sweet salad.
You gave me your flowers,
So fragrant and picturesque
You gave me everything
And accepted nothing
Now my dear tree where are you?
Please come back to me.

- K. Kirthika, Std VIII,
D.A.V.Sr. Secondary School, Chennai

JACKAL LEARNS HIS LESSON

Once a jackal and a young cat
Under a tree together sat
"Friend! I admire you", the cat mewed
"For you are cunning, clever and shrewd

I have called you not for a sumptuous feast
But to learn how to escape from wild beast
Two days ago, killed was my dear mate,
I wish not to suffer the same fate."

Replied the proud jackal, "I will teach
The clever tricks you now beseech.
When the hunting dog comes, be brave
Neither run nor hide in a cave.

Like me, you may fight the hunter so mighty,
But not so easily the hyena so haughty,
Among the bushes you can always hide.
But never fear when I am on your side.

Run as far your legs can take you,
(But, as fast as I, can run only a few.)
Or lurk quietly behind the banyan tree.
The hyena, your figure, can never see."

An old but wise cat came by and said
"Run before the hyenas sever your head."
Hearing a sound the two looked back,
And lo, they saw a hungry hyena pack!

At once onto a tree jumped the old cat,
Junior followed suit and on a branch they sat.

The jackal stood stunned with shock,
As it was approached by a ferocious flock!

To run far away tried the jackal
But the hyenas caught up with a cackle!
"Fear not" they said, "we won't eat you!
A lesson we just wanted to teach you!"

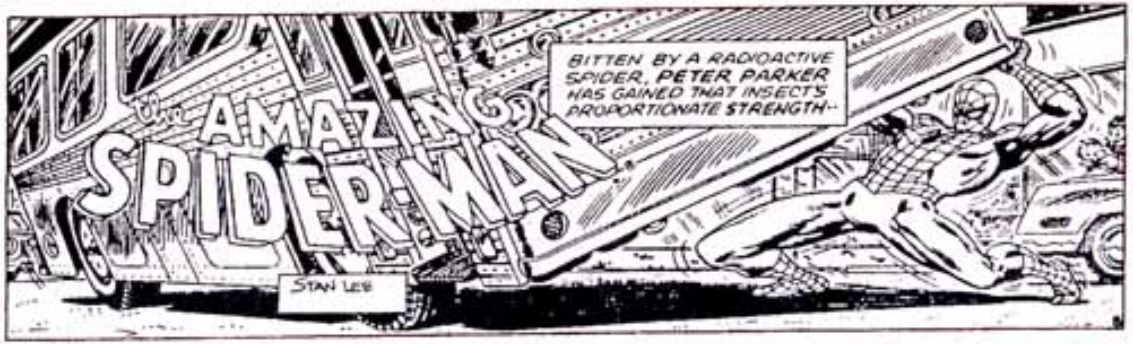
- R. Ashwin, Std X,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Chennai

My Big Brother!

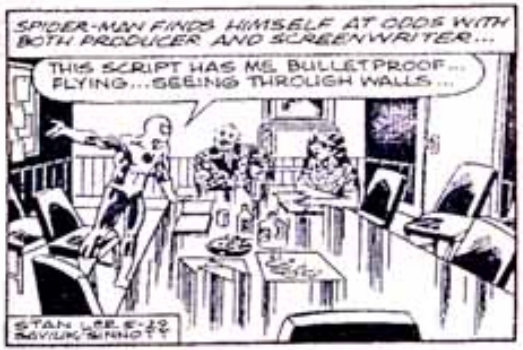
I have an elder brother
Who is often quite a bother!
"Learn to love him", my parents say
He teases me everyday!
Often we fight
With all our might
Neither gives up,
Until our parents say "Shut up"!
Big brother borrows everything from me

He also calls me a stingy bee!
In my heart I do love him a bit
But when we fight, I do not think of it!

- Nisha Nandakumar, Std IX,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Chennai


AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, PETER PARKER HAS GAINED THAT INSECTS PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH--
STAN LEE

--AND, LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CAN CLING TO CEILINGS AND WALLS!


SPIDER-MAN FINDS HIMSELF AT ODDS WITH BOTH PRODUCER AND SCREENWRITER...
THIS SCRIPT HAS ME BULLETPROOF... FLYING... SEEING THROUGH WALLS...

WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THOSE PHONY POWERS?
TO MAKE THE MOVIE MORE EXCITING.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT I CAN WALK ON CEILINGS?
NO! THE AUDIENCE'LL THINK WE JUST TURNED THE CAMERA UPSIDE DOWN.

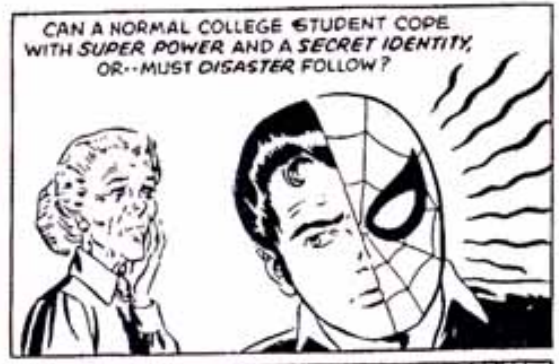
OR THAT I CAN SHOOT MY WEB?
MMMPH...
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE WITH SPRAY PAINT.

HOW ABOUT THE FACT THAT I CAN LIFT TWO GROWN MEN OVER MY HEAD WITHOUT BREATHING HARD?
NOW YOU'RE TALKING!

BE SURE TO SHOW HIM USING HIS SUPER-STRENGTH.
SPIDER-STRENGTH.
WHATEVER.

PETER PARKER'S WIFE MJ IS CAST IN THE MOVIE AS SPIDERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND...

JOKES APART, THERE WAS A LOT OF CONFUSION TO FOLLOW.



RHINO HAS READ THE PAPERS TOO..!
(TO BE CONTINUED)

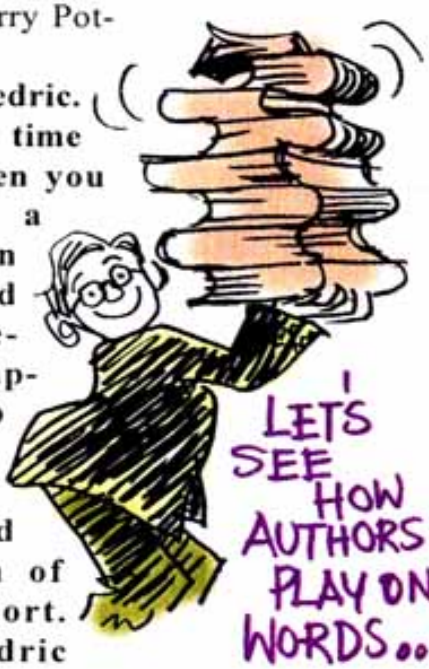
HOW DIALOGUES ENRICH LITERATURE!

Hi friends,

As we come to the end of the 'Word Power' series, let's see how authors play on words to create powerful dialogues/ speeches, to bring about a dramatic impact on the readers.

Let's begin with all time favourite, JK's Harry Potter.

"Remember Cedric. Remember, if the time should come when you have to make a choice between what is right, and what is easy; remember what happened to a boy who was good, and kind, and brave, because he strayed across the path of Lord Voldemort. Remember Cedric Diggory."



These were the words spoken by Dumbledore to the students of Hogwarts in the book 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'. These words set the stage for the next two books in the series. The story line and its message are aptly summarized by these words. This dialogue of Dumbledore shows how important conversations and dialogues set the stage for the entire story and also how a reader is emotionally involved in the story. The narrator takes a backstage and the characters of the book take over.

"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him... But Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honourable man. Yet Brutus says he was ambitious; I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, But here I am to speak what I do know. You all did love him once, not without cause: What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him? O judgment!

ARJUN KANNAN

thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason. Bear with me; My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar, And I must pause till it come back to me."

This was Mark Anthony's speech at Caesar's funeral. Brutus had just defended Caesar's assassination to the public.

With his careful yet powerful speech, without pronouncing his own judgement on the matter, Anthony draws attention to the facts of the matter and turns the people of Rome against Brutus and Cassius. Shakespeare, the playwright par excellence has designed this speech to craftily act as a catalyst, to instigate the people.

Talking of public rhetoric and speeches, especially during election time, one is reminded of the ever popular and humorous "Yes, Minister" (Some of you may have watched it on T.V.) which I consider is the funniest, wittiest political satire. Poor Jim is always wondering what all the beaurocratic jingoism means.

"What's the difference," he asks, **"between 'under consideration?'** and **'under active consideration'?"**

"'Under consideration,'" he is told, **"means we've lost the file. 'Under active consideration' means we're trying to find it!"**

Similarly, Jim slowly comes to understand that **"a controversial decision will merely lose you votes, a courageous decision will lose you the election."**

And on the matter of private information, **"RESTRICTED means it was in the papers yesterday. CONFIDENTIAL means it won't be in the papers till today."**

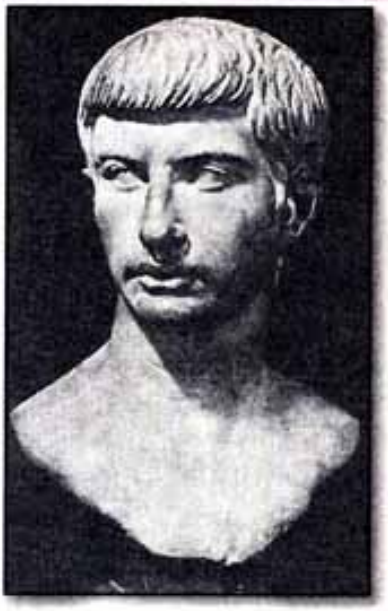
While on the subject of humour, P.G. Wodehouse is an author I would strongly recommend for rib-tickling dialogues and situations from cover to cover. A comment he is reported to have made on humorous writing (paraphrase): **"I try to adhere to writing something a bit humorous, at least every three sentences. Less than that and you risk not being funny."** He does it. For example **"I was merely offering the animal a piece of**

fruit" (said with feigned innocence by a cat hater when he is caught lobbing a chunk of banana at an obnoxious feline!) Moving on to more serious situations, let's take a look at, say, Dickens, the great novelist in his Great Expectations. Dickens does not go in for many dialogues in the book, but the few there are, make a great impact. The novel begins with young orphaned Philip Pirrip--Pip--running afoul of an escaped convict in a cemetery. This terrifying personage bullies Pip into stealing food and a file for him, threatening that if he tells a soul **"your heart and your liver shall be tore out, roasted and ate."** These words characterise the convict to such an extent that even after several years, when Pip becomes the heir of an unknown benefactor, and till the end, Pip cannot get over this terrifying episode in his childhood.

Most authors use dialogues to maintain reader interest and at the same time, carry the story forward. Words used by the protagonists also help in defining the characters and their backgrounds. Take Indian author, R.K.Narayan, for instance. The characters in his little South Indian town of Malgudi, under British colonial rule, come alive in their dialogues.

"Sixteen!" mother screamed. They can't be all right if they have kept the girl unmarried till sixteen. She must have attained puberty ages ago. We have a face to keep in this town."

"I think they are prepared to give a cash dowry of about two thousand rupees, silver vessels and presents up to a thousand, and spend about a thousand on the wed-



* Brutus

ding celebrations. These will be in addition to about a thousand worth of diamond and gold on the girl."

Don't you think Narayan has vividly encapsulated old Indian customs like early marriage and dowry in dialogues like these?

One can go on and on, but it's time to say goodbye. I do hope you have enjoyed Word Power as much as I have. Go ahead and enjoy the power of words in the vast ocean of books. Don't restrict yourself to reading only Gokulam and Harry Potter! Au revoir.

The Devas and Asuras - the two celestial bodies were trying to get *Amrit* (the nectar of immortality). They were told that they could obtain it by churning the ocean.

Now, how could they churn the ocean? Strong and mighty were they, but to churn an ocean was unimaginable! They thought and thought about it and decided to use Mount Meru as a churn, and the serpent Vasuki as a rope to go around the churn.

They set out to displace

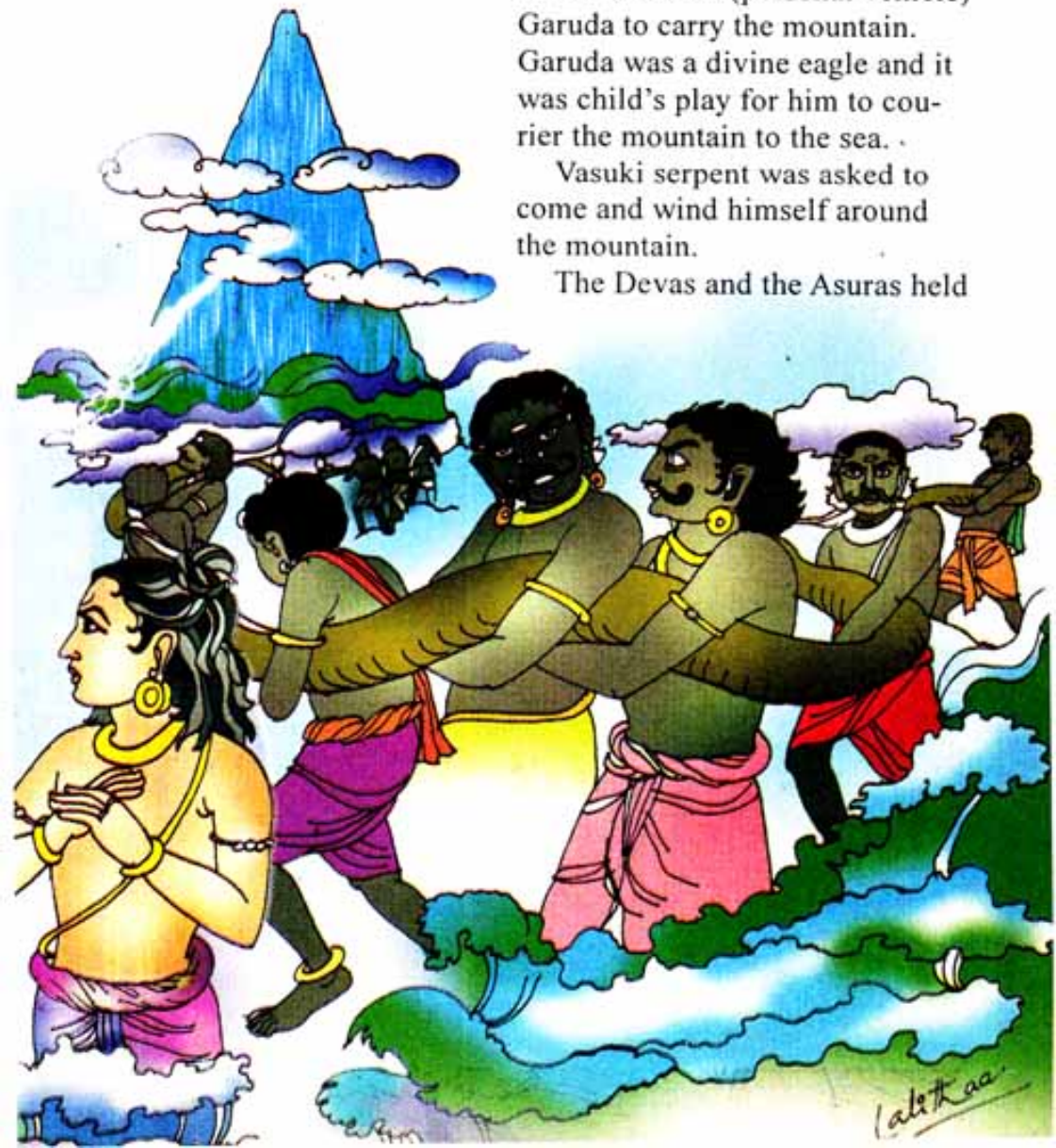
NILAKANTA

Mount Meru and carry it back to the ocean. They used their gigantic strength to 'pluck' it off the ground, but how could they carry a whole mountain?

The chief of the Devas, Indra, had an idea. He prayed to Lord Vishnu to help them. The Lord immediately came to his aid and sent his vahana (personal vehicle) Garuda to carry the mountain. Garuda was a divine eagle and it was child's play for him to courier the mountain to the sea.

Vasuki serpent was asked to come and wind himself around the mountain.

The Devas and the Asuras held



The inventor of the bulb - Thomas Edison was afraid of the dark.

There are approximately ten million bricks in the Empire state building.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing!

- Nidhi Choudhary, Jaipur

one end each of Vasuki and twirled Mount Meru around in the sea, creating a beautiful churning effect.

After a while, the mountain started to sink into the ocean! Indra was quite desperate. He again prayed to Lord Vishnu.

Suddenly a huge turtle appeared and swam deep down into the sea. Soon he surfaced again, bearing Mount Meru on his back.

Guess who the turtle was...? It was Lord Vishnu himself! As the divine turtle held aloft the mountain, the devas and asuaras churned away with all their might.

After they churned for a long time, the ocean started sending forth its gifts. The first to appear from its depths was the deadly poison 'hala-hala.'

The poison was so strong, that - the Devas and Asuras shrunk away from it in fear.

Now how could the churning continue?

Again it was Indra who went.... And where did he go...? To Lord Shiva this time.

"Oh Lord! Save us from this deadly poison" he pleaded.

Lord Shiva came to the sea-shore, and even as the whole world watched dumb struck, he consumed the hala hala poison which emanated from the ocean!

Siva's consort Parvathi was horrified at this act and in order to save her Lord's life she held his throat firmly. The poison which Siva had consumed, was restrained from entering his body and remained in his throat, staining it blue.

To this day, Siva's throat remains blue - giving him the decorative name Nilakanta (ni a-blue, kanta - throat).

- S. Rajaram, Std VII, Jawahar Vidyalaya, Chennai

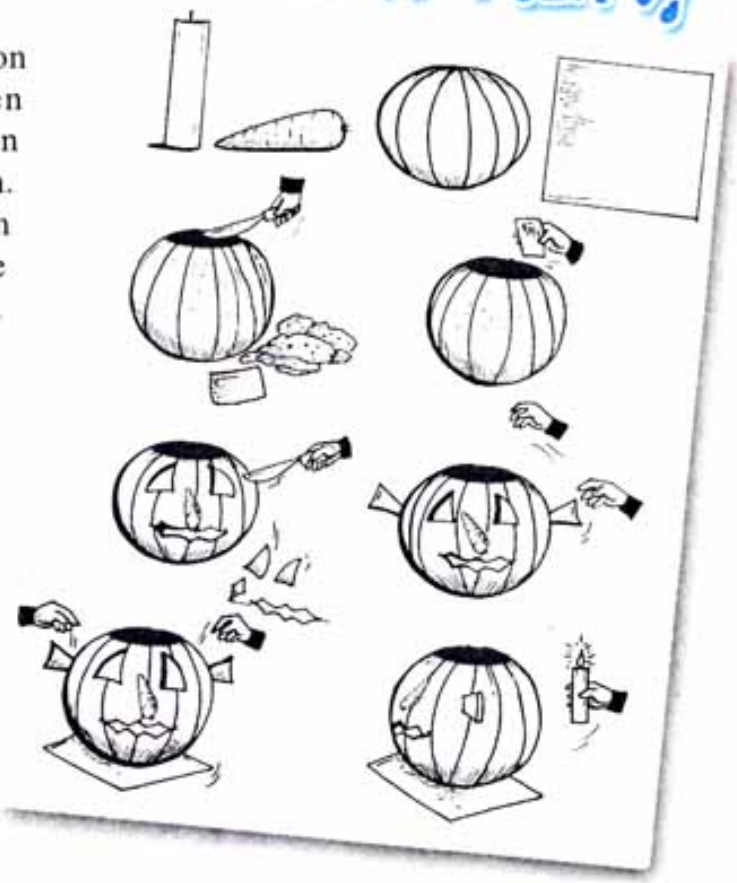
SCARY PUMPKIN!

You will need:

A large orange pumpkin, candle, carrot, a nail and a small cardboard.

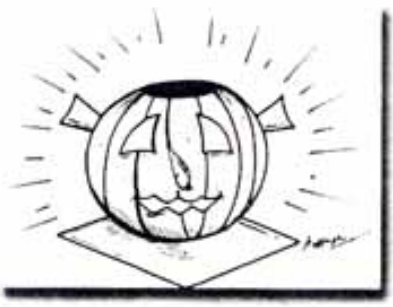
Method:

Cut off the top portion of the pumpkin. Then clean the inner portion with a large sharp spoon. Cut the eyes and mouth with a knife. Dig a hole for the nose and stick the carrot into it. Cut two furrows on the sides. Use the cardboard for making ears and embed them into the furrows. Stick the nail into the inside bottom of the pumpkin to hold the candle. It can be lit inside. Put the top back and your scary pumpkin is ready.



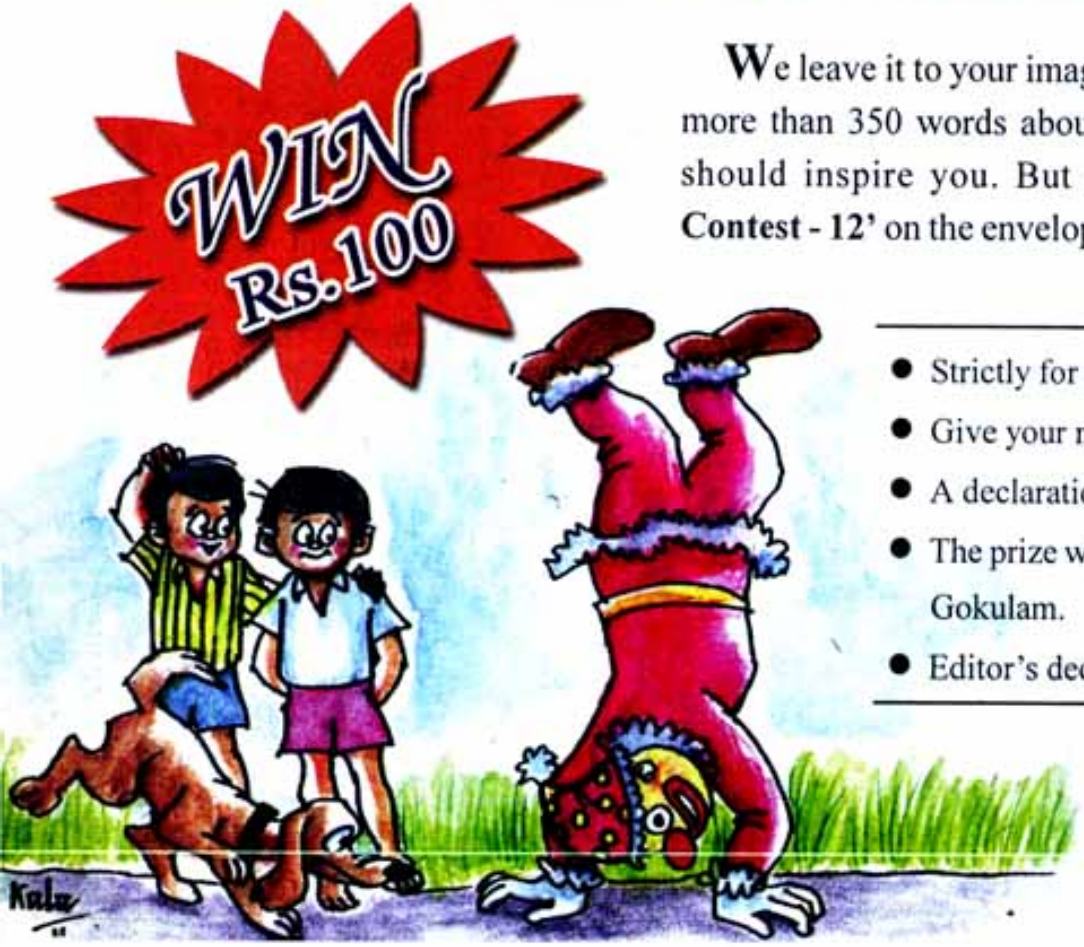
Note:

The scary pumpkins should be placed in a dark room. You could scare your little brother or sister! You can develop your own "HP room" too! To make it more scary, draw appropriate pictures behind and in front of the pumpkin...



- S. Sai Priya, Std VIII,
Mahatma Gandhi Centerary Vidyalaya,
Trichy

Laugh A While Contest- 12



We leave it to your imagination. Write an original funny story in not more than 350 words about a circus clown. The picture on this page should inspire you. But remember to mention **'Laugh a While Contest - 12'** on the envelope and send it to reach us latest by **20.6.2006.**

- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning entry will appear in the July 2006 issue of Gokulam.
- Editor's decision is final.

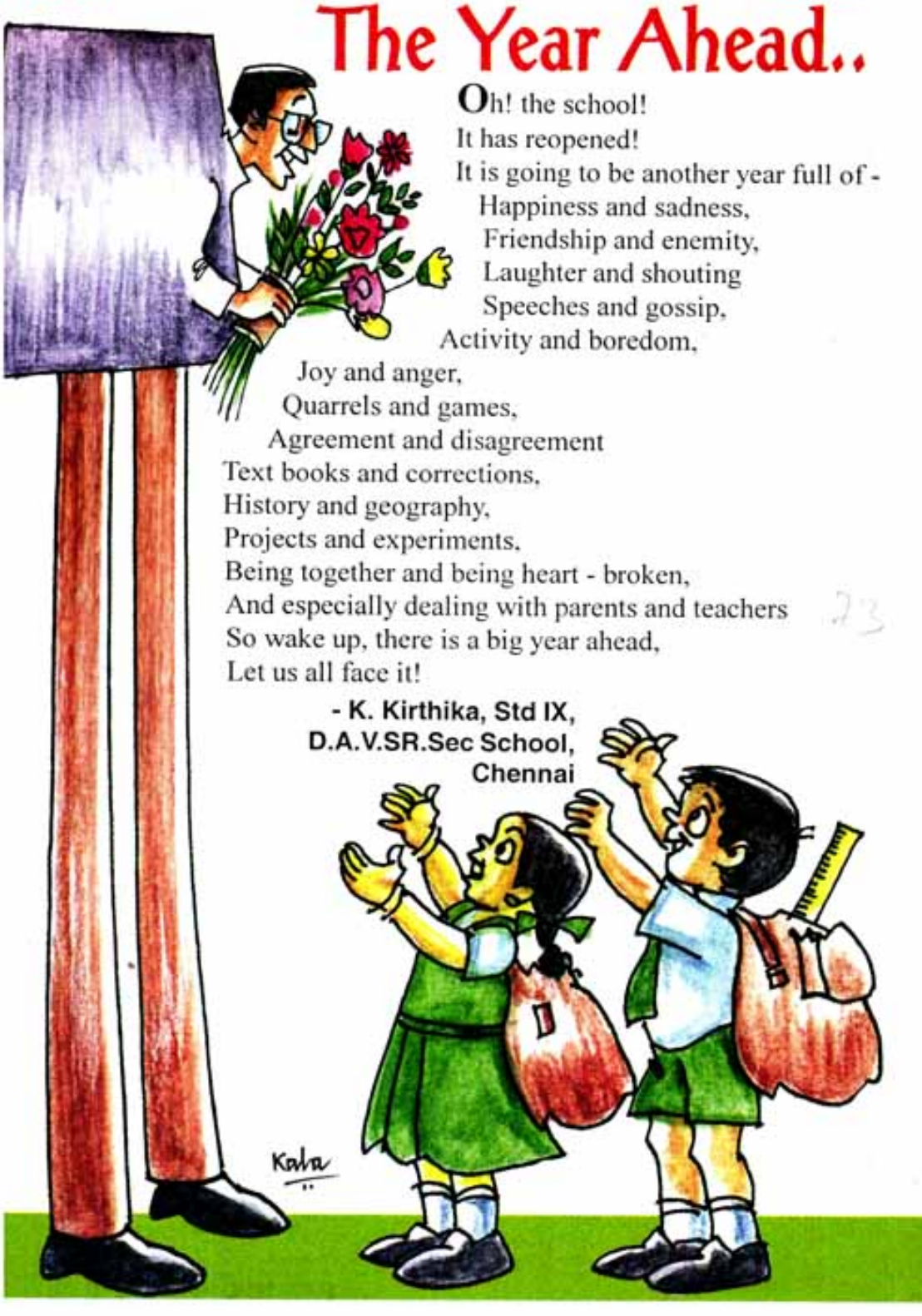
Send in your entries to:

Gokulam,
47 NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

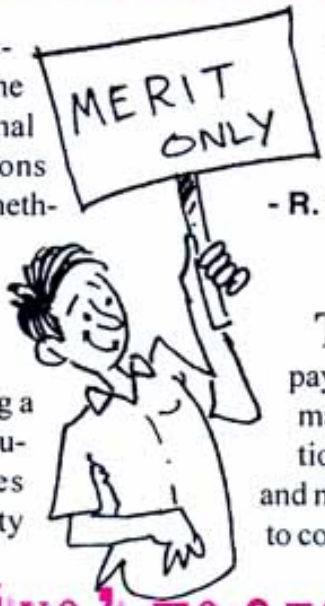
The Year Ahead..

Oh! the school!
It has reopened!
It is going to be another year full of -
Happiness and sadness,
Friendship and enemity,
Laughter and shouting
Speeches and gossip,
Activity and boredom,
Joy and anger,
Quarrels and games,
Agreement and disagreement
Text books and corrections,
History and geography,
Projects and experiments,
Being together and being heart - broken,
And especially dealing with parents and teachers
So wake up, there is a big year ahead,
Let us all face it!

- K. Kirthika, Std IX,
D.A.V.SR.Sec School,
Chennai



'NO' TO RESERVATION; IMPROVE THEIR EDUCATON!



Our IITs and IIMs occupy a unique position in the galaxy of premier educational institutes. These institutions have their own time tested methods to admit students. By increasing reservations for backward castes in these institutions the Government is deliberately denying a fair chance for deserving students. It also encourages casteism, creating disparity among the youth.

- C. Parvathy, Std XII, St. John's M.H.S.S, Chennai

If reservation continues without time limit, the backward classes may not understand the importance of hardwork and efforts.

- Apoorva Shenoy, Std X, Bhavan's A.H.Wadia School, Mumbai

The government can arrange for special coaching classes for backward community students of std XI and XII free of cost. This would definitely enrich their capability and increase their natural capacity to enter premier institutions.

- J. Nethra, Std XI, Modern Senior Secondary School, Chennai

Poverty knows no caste/creed. So, if at all there is reservation, it should be based only on the economic criteria.

- R. Sri Meenakshi, Std IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai

The government should pay more attention to the primary and secondary education of the backward classes and make them capable enough to compete with other students.

Increasing reservations among the limited number of seats, will not only decrease the standard of our education system, but also cause a severe blow to the aspirations of many worthy students.

- Amrita Shriram Kulkarni, Std X, Divine Providence Convent High School, Tilakwadi, Belgaum.

Quota should be based on economic criteria rather than caste system.

- Ramya Sivanesan, Std VIII, Shri Ram School, Gurgaon

We got independence in the year

1947. From then we have given chance for the backward classes to join the main stream. I find that they have already joined the main stream.

- B.N. Anuradha, Std IX,
Carmel School,
Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore

As 'Right to Equality' is mentioned in our constitution, everyone should be given equal rights and should be selected only for their merit.

- A. Srinivas, Std IX,
S.B.O.A (M) Hr.Sec. School,
Chennai

The step can boost misusable confidence among backward caste students.

- M. Sneha, Std IX,
St. Anne's Girl's High school,
Ulsoor,

Increase in reservation would give the people of the backward castes an opportunity to come forward and prove themselves to the world. They can also improve their standard of living. This move will accelerate the growth of the nation and improve the country's economy.

- M.B. Ezhil Raja,
Std IX,
St.John's Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

The UPA government's push for reservations in education and private sector jobs may be billed as affirmative action but is aimed at gathering votes. As past experience shows, it will neither uplift the underprivileged nor deliver votes.

- M. Sivakumar, Std XII,
S.B.O.A Mat.Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai

Fifty percent reservation, based on caste in premier educational institutions like IITs and IIMs, will deliver a death blow to talent in this country.

- Akankshya Abismruta, Std VII,
D.A.V. Public School, Orissa

Increasing reservations would only serve to divide our society.

- Priyanka Rao, Visakapatnam.

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Should parent's impose a restriction on how much TV their children can watch...?

Send us your views by 10.6.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@ kalkiweekly.com)

Prize Winning Story

"Sixer! Sixer! Sixer!" cheered the student crowd. Vivek and Rhythwyn were particularly vociferous.

Ajay was batting with all his might. His team was struggling to win. Rishab's powerful team was not at all easy to tackle.

"Shut up you two!" Ajay shouted at them "If I attempt a sixer. I'll be in a 'fix' er!" he said smiling.

Ajay was not used to playing at night. It was a flood lit match - But not because it was meant to be one...!

Sungloom the space monster had caused darkness to descend on earth and the sun seemed to have been 'kidnapped' by him. The schools had been closed because it was an emergency situation. No solution had been found in the past two days.

"Boy, am I glad that Sungloom has taken over Earth!" said Vivek.

"Yeah, the monster from outer space is posing a real challenge to the elders, but we kids are enjoying a holiday..." Rhythwyn replied.

Ajay got ready to tackle a wicked ball from spinner Rishwanth, when a much bigger ball of glowing light suddenly descended on the field... and before they knew it, all the players on the ground were whisked into it.

"Hey, this is a space vehicle" said Ajay quite excited by the sudden adventure. "Yeah, but there's hardly any space in it for all of us!" replied Vivek as he jostled around to settle his tall and lanky frame. He was already five feet and four inches tall!

Some of the boys had turned pale with fear and let out a scream as the golden ball of light suddenly lurched off the ground and spun into space.

Soon Ajay and the rival skipper Rishab were hugging each other in desperation. "Sungloom has captured us...?" whispered Rishab.

"Don't worry, we'll forget our differences and stay together for a cause..." consoled Ajay.

What's a cause? asked Match stick Mithun.

No! Mithun was not matchstick thin, but had the strange hobby of collecting matchsticks!

"Its an ideal we work for..." ex-

plained Rhythwyn seriously.

"Ha! just the way Mithun works to collect matchsticks... isn't it..." teased Riaz.

They sure were enjoying being abducted until Sungloom burst on them as if from nowhere...

"Stop all this nonsense!" screamed Sungloom... and how well he spoke the English language! He was a ball of flashing colours which dissolved into darkness every now and then!

"I am taking all of you away to Gloomland to work in my robot - lab... and mind you, no pranks! My robots will get you if you try any nonsense."

The boys slowly started losing heart... this was no fun journey.

Ajay mustered up his courage and whispered into Rishab's ear... "..."

Rishab nodded his consent and the next moment Ajay started singing, "Here's a jolly good fellow... here's a jolly good fellow..." at the top of his voice. Completely dumbstruck, Sungloom turned to look at him, and Rishab chose the moment to deliver a huge blow on the villain's head with his cricket bat.

Mithun unearthed a fist full of match boxes from his pocket and started firing lighted matchsticks at Sungloom. Now, the 'monster' was allergic to fire and soon collapsed!

Meanwhile Ajay was busy reading up the instruction icons in the spacecraft and with his keen computer knowledge he was able to manouvre it back to earth in a jiffy.

When they landed back on the cricket ground, they found the sun shining merrily and the floodlights still on.

SUN BLOOM!

"We truly played a day and night match..." said Ajay.

"Nobody's going to believe this..." Rishab worried.

"But we have Sungloom and the space vehicle to show as proof!" Mithun reminded.

"But our unexpected holiday has come to an end..." Vivek said with slight sadness.

"Here's a jollygood fellow!" said Ajay poking him in the ribs!

"Sunbloom! - that's your new name" said Vivek, hugging Ajay.

- Ajay Ashok, Std VIII,
St. Michael's Academy,
Chennai

COALITIONS-ORDER OF THE DAY!

• in

There was an uprising of the people in Nepal for restoration of democracy. The King was unyielding since he thought that the Maoist rebels could be kept under control only under a dictatorship. Dr. Karan Singh was sent by New Delhi to talk to the King. Gyanendra ultimately gave back power to the people. Old timer Koirala has taken over as Prime Minister and an elected constituent assembly is to be formed soon, followed by other democratic norms.

• • •

Pramod Mahajan, a charismatic leader belonging to B.J.P, was shot by his brother Pravin. Pramod died a few days later after putting up a brave struggle for his life. Pravin has been arrested. He says that he was angry with his brother for treating him with scorn!

• • •

A woman suicide bomber blew herself up in an attempt to kill the Sri Lankan Chief of Army, who escaped death but was badly injured. Following this there were some rocket attacks by the army on Tiger camps. But once again the peace process seems to have set in. It is a continuous blow hot -blow cold situation in Sri Lanka.

• a brave struggle

• • •

• out

In Tamilnadu, Jayalalitha has been voted out of power. The DMK lead front won more than two thirds of the seats but the DMK by itself could not muster a majority. So it is a coalition government after a long, long time for the Tamils.

• • •

In West Bengal, the Left Front was swept to power for a record seventh time consecutively and in Kerala the Left Democratic front captured power from the ruling United DemocraticFront. It is a CPI (Marxist) led government in the north east and south west! In Assam, the ruling Congress did not get an absolute majority, but being the single largest party, has staked the claim to form a government and a coalition rule is in the offing.

✉ Your advise on how to spend the holidays was helpful. The facts about 'sweet treats' may be well known to people who live in villages. But people like me who are in the cities, are able to learn all through 'GOKULAM'.

- A. Kishorekumar, Chennai

✉ 'Tinku' is very interesting. I suggest you publish an index containing all the contents within the book.

- Subha Narayanan, Std XII, Vani Vidyalaya, Dombivli (E)

✉ I have been a Gokulam fan for the past four years. I request you to publish more and more posters of Harry Potter.

- S. Padma, Std IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Hubli

✉ Gokulam is a library. Every topic is available within its cover. 'Pottermania' is excellent. Thankyou for publishing my articles.

- J. Sowmya Prabha, Std X, Coimbatore

✉ The Pottermanias of the May issue were very good and interesting. The 'Health is Wealth' board game is an encouragement for children to eat proper food. The activity pull out was awesome. I hope you start Narniamania too!

- K.R.B. Rohini, Std VI, Chennai

✉ Holiday play was very nice. I and my friends enacted the drama 'Raja Harischandra'. Everyone appreciated us and praised Gokulam.

- G. Ragavijaya, Neyveli

SWEET TREAT INDEED!

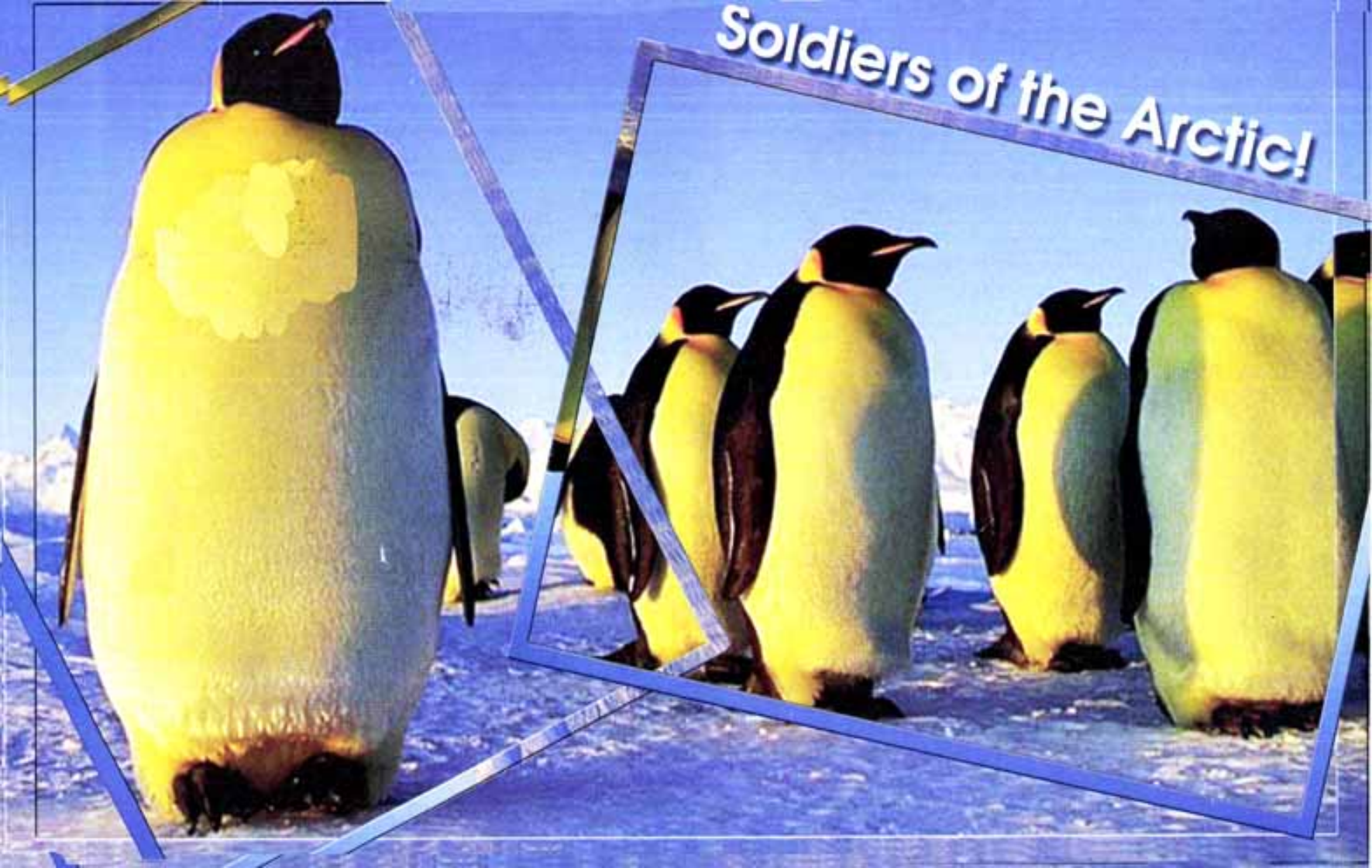
✉ I think Gokulam is an ocean of knowledge. I love Grandmaworm, Experience, Hello Doctor, Puzzle and Viewpoint. I learn how to talk, walk and sit from Gokulam. My English has also improved after I began reading this magazine.

- Amarpreet Kawr, Patiala(Punjab)

Tinku

Story, Pictures: Pillai

Soldiers of the Arctic!



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